FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 JANUARY 1984

Lebanon

Political Developments — Foreign Minister Elie Salim, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal began discussions in Riyad on 8 January on ways to promote the Lebanese security plan and revive the national reconciliation process, Damascus radio and AFP announced. Salim told AFP that he was not optimistic and that the talks were taking place in "difficult circumstances," but the agency cited Khaddam as voicing optimism and asserting that "the peace plan could be agreed as early as" 9 January.

In an interview broadcast by Radio Monte Carlo, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt stated that while the three foreign ministers would discuss the current situation, the Lebanese-Israeli 17 May agreement is an issue that the PSP and the participants "cannot penetrate." Junblatt said that the security plan will stop fighting and armed clashes among the various factions but that it "does not remove the basic political differences" between the opposition and the regime. Junblatt said the Lebanese Army's presence in the mountain areas is "absolutely rejected," adding that the Army should be used only "after a comprehensive Lebanese political solution has been found."

Junblatt informed the radio that the government's Security Committee failed to attend a 7 January meeting in Damascus to discuss the security plan for Beirut and the mountain region and stated that he considers this development "an escalation of the situation by the Lebanese Government." However, the Damascus meeting was attended by representatives of the Lebanese Army, the Lebanese Front, the PSP, the Amal Movement, and the Saudi mediator, the radio added, though Junblatt and Amal leader Nabih Birri did not personally participate. Nevertheless, Birri announced that the meeting had drafted a "final formula" for the security plan which he said did not differ from the plan negotiated earlier, according to Beirut radio.

Israeli Position — Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor stated on Jerusalem radio that Israel's position on Lebanon is based on the 17 May agreement and that "there is no truth" to reports that Israel's position on withdrawal or redeployment has changed. During a Cabinet session on 8 January, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reiterated that Israel will withdraw only when the Syrian forces depart, the radio added. Nevertheless, security sources cited by Jerusalem radio asserted that "Israel does not necessarily have to wait for the Syrians to leave Lebanon."

Military Developments — A U.S. Marine was killed and two others were wounded when two RPG rounds were fired at a helicopter landing in Beirut on 8 January, Beirut radio announced. In other developments, the radio noted clashes around Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb, elsewhere in the mountain region, and Khaldah on 7 and 8 January. In the north, Lebanese security forces in Tripoli took up buffer positions between combatants following exchanges of rocket and heavy machine gun fire on 6 January, according to the radio, which also reported that two Israeli tanks opened "indiscriminate" fire on vehicles parked in Sidon. Military sources cited by Jerusalem radio denied the latter report, although the radio did note that an IDF patrol had fired into an illegally parked vehicle in the city which they suspected was booby trapped, speculating that this may have sparked rumors that Israeli forces had "shot up" dozens of civilian vehicles.

In another development, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the Iranian command in Ba'labakk agreed to move its forces and munitions to locations "far from residential areas" following "steady pressures and contacts" in this regard.

Jordan

The House of Representatives and Senate approved the amendment to Article 73 of the Constitution in an extraordinary session of Parliament on 9 January, Amman radio reported. Earlier, *AR-RA'Y* published the text of the amendment, which permits the king to recall the dissolved Parliament in an ordinary session and to order general elections in the East Bank districts. The elected members will themselves elect not more than half the members from the West Bank, where elections cannot be held, and both groups will together elect the final group of West Bank deputies.

The extraordinary session of Parliament will be followed by an ordinary session, and this means that a cabinet change is likely, the daily *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* disclosed.

In Damascus, the joint command of the PFLP and DFLP denounced King Husayn's "new maneuver" in recalling Parliament and called on Palestinians and Jordanians to "deter the capitulatory design," according to Damascus radio.

PLO Affairs

The Fatah Revolutionary Council will meet in Tunis on 9 January to prepare for the forthcoming Fatah general congress and to discuss the "implications and repercussions" of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan stated in remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo and AFP. Meanwhile, the PLO Executive Committee held a meeting in Tunis on 7 January attended by nine of its members: 'Arafat, three other Fatah representatives, one from the Arab Liberation Front, and four independents, according to "informed" Palestinian sources cited by the radio. Although representatives of the PFLP, DFLP, PFLP-GC, and As-Sa'iqah boycotted the meeting, the presence of nine members was sufficient for a quorum, the radio said. The earlier meeting of Executive Committee members on 5-6 January was "unofficial" because there was no quorum as a result of the delayed arrival of one of the independent representatives, the radio noted.

In Damascus, the "Palestinian command" opposed to 'Arafat denounced the PLO Executive Committee meeting as "illegal" in view of the absence of "all" the resistance faction representatives and also condemned the Fatah Central Committee's stand as a "cover for 'Arafat's step and his deviations," Damascus radio reported. The statement was issued by Fatah dissident leaders Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha and Nimr Salih, PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum, several PLO Executive Committee members, and the leaders of As-Sa'iqah, the PFLP-GC, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front.

Libya's Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, in a speech at a rally in Damascus reported by Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio, described the leadership of the "new Fatah revolutionary movement" as the legitimate leadership of Fatah and he called on "misguided" cadres to join the uprising. Jallud's presence in Damascus was linked to attempts to form a "revolutionary liberation organization" with Syrian and Libyan support, according to a Palestinian source cited by Kuwait's *AL-ANBA'*.

Yasir 'Arafat told the London magazine *AL-MAJALLAH* that he intends to visit Egypt again, "whenever the circumstances are suitable," adding that he will not yield to "pressure or blackmail." In remarks to Jordanian journalists reported by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, 'Arafat revealed that he also plans to visit Jordan. Regarding Husayn's decision to recall the Jordanian Parliament, 'Arafat wished the move "success" but also expressed hope that "this step will not have any political effect" inside the West Bank, according to a related report by Amman *AD-DUSTUR*. 'Arafat also told the paper that when he was in Lebanon he was offered "part of Lebanon to establish a state."

Tunisia

All segments of the Tunisian population took to the streets on 7 January to express appreciation for President Habib Bourguiba's "courageous decision" to revoke the price increases for bread and pasta, Tunis radio reported. Announcing his decision in an address broadcast by the radio, Bourguiba said it had been made in the face of popular unrest. He ordered the government to prepare a new budget that will not affect the poor but will increase prices of alcoholic drinks and similar items. Bourguiba said he had originally authorized a small increase in the price of bread because of reports that bread was being wasted and sold as fodder. However, the price hike was too big, he said, and in the future the government will ensure there are no "exorbitant" price rises for bread and pasta.

The president subsequently appointed Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali acting interior minister, thereby dismissing Interior Minister Driss Guiga, according to Tunis radio. Bourguiba also ordered a reduction in the curfew and the release of all detainees who did not engage in looting or sabotage, the radio noted. Meanwhile, a number of opposition parties and Labor Federation leader Habib Achour welcomed Bourguiba's decision to rescind the price increases, the radio said.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak held a lengthy meeting with Saudi Prince Talal, director of the Arab Gulf program for supporting UN development organizations and UNICEF special envoy, Cairo radio reported on 8 January. The Saudi visitor said afterward that his discussions did not deal with political issues.

In another development, Mubarak stated that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is welcome to visit Egypt, MENA noted. Mubarak was responding to the Iraqi leader's statement, broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio on 7 January, that he would like to visit Egypt to meet Mubarak if and when he is not too busy directing Iraq's war effort.

During his current visit to Paris, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali stressed that Egypt believes the Arabs have a duty to assist Iraq in the war with Iran, INA reported. Ghali also announced that Egypt would welcome PLO Chairman 'Arafat's residing in Cairo, according to MENA. Ghali held talks on 6 January with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, MENA noted, while British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Sir Geoffrey Howe arrived in Cairo on 8 January at the start of his Middle East tour.

Iran

Kordestan Operation — Iranian troops launched a new offensive against rebels in Kordestan, capturing over 30 villages in the border area near Baneh and penetrating 10 km inside Iraq to destroy a "counterrevolutionary" base, according to a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio. Iranian forces "liberated" the entire border strip in the Baneh area and killed over 230 rebels, the communique asserted.

Broadcasting Director Reinstated — The supervisory council of the "Voice and Vision" appointed Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the organization's managing director, Tehran radio reported. The decision reinstates Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the brother of the Majlis speaker, in the position from which he resigned last year.

Iraq

Iraq will choose the appropriate circumstances to exercise its "natural right" to strike at the interests of the Iranian regime "wherever they may be," President Saddam Husayn declared in a speech broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio and Baghdad television on 6 January. Any new Iranian attack on Iraqi civilian or military targets will be an additional reason for Iraq to carry out "deterrent actions" to punish the Iranian regime, he warned.

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'Arafat Arrives in Algiers For Talks

JN091137 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Algiers, 9 Jan (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Algiers today. Palestinian sources have informed the INA correspondent that 'Arafat will hold talks with Algerian officials on the latest Palestinian developments, the difficulties that faced the Palestinian resistance in north Lebanon and Tripoli, and the evacuation of the Palestinian fighters from Lebanon. The same sources said that it is possible that 'Arafat will also discuss issues related to the PNC meeting which may be held in Algiers to discuss Palestinian developments.

PLO Executive Committee Achieves Quorum

NC071250 Paris AFP in English 1240 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Tunis, Jan 7 (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organization's 14-member Executive Committee has achieved the required quorum of nine members for a crucial meeting on new strategy, Palestinian sources said today. The Executive Committee had failed to reach a quorum on Thursday but had been meeting informally.

Eight of the 14 members have been in Tunis since early this week. The ninth member for the quorum, Executive Committee Secretary Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, was delayed in arriving due to a curfew in Tunisia imposed after a wave of rioting followed food price hikes on January 1.

A tenth Executive Committee member, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, is currently in Tunis representing the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), accompanied by delegates from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Palestinian Communist Party.

These representatives said that before deciding whether to attend the Executive Committee meeting they would seek explanations from Fatah, the main group in the PLO, as to why PLO and Fatah chief Yasir 'Arafat visited Egypt last month. Mr 'Arafat's controversial talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, which were unauthorised by PLO institutions, will undoubtedly top the agenda, observers said here.

In a statement early today, a senior Fatah officer, Abu Iyad, said that both Fatah and Mr 'Abd Rabbuh's delegation had agreed that Mr 'Arafat, acting on a personal basis, had made a "political and organisational error" by talking to Mr Mubarak.

The statement was a barely-veiled warning — echoingcriticism by PLO dissidents — that Mr 'Arafat should bow to the collective will of PLO leadership, observers said.

(In Damascus, Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestinian National Council — which serves as the Palestinian parliament — attacked Mr 'Arafat's Egyptian trip as "an adventure and a flagrant violation" of decisions made by Fatah and the PLO.)

Executive Committee members are also likely to decide on plans to convene the National Council next month to debate policy after the evacuation of 'Arafat loyalists from Lebanon and the split in the PLO.

The date and location for the National Council meeting, which was originally set for Algeria will be announced after a consultations with the host country, a Palestinian source said.

Mr 'Arafat is to go to Algeria after the committee meeting to meet former prisoners of the Ansar camp in southern Lebanon, who were among 4,000 PLO fighters freed in November in exchange for six Israeli troops.

Procedural Issues Discussed

JN091143 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Jan 84 p 1

[Excerpt] Tunis — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — The PLO Executive Committee has held only one session in Tunis. It was attended by its chairman Yasir 'Arafat; two other Fatah members, Faruq Qaddumi and Mahmud 'Abbas; Arab Liberation Front member 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad; and five independents. Four members from four Palestinian factions wereabsent. These members are the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine's Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, The PFLP's Ahmad al-Yamani, the PFLP-GC's Talal Naji, and As-Sa'iqah' Kuhammad Khalifah. 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, an independent, is also absent.

The session, which is the first by the Executive Committee since last August, was devoted to procedural matters pertaining to unsolved, urgent issues like the financial problems, especially with regard to backing the people's steadfastness in the occupied territories, and the formation of the PLO delegation to the Islamic summit conference which will be held in Rabat in mid-January. The delegation is to be headed by Yasir 'Arafat. The committee also decided, in principle, to hold the PNC in Algiers during the first week of February. This will be left to the PLO Central Council to approve.

In its session, the Executive Committee avoided discussing controversial issues which the committee will defer to expanded Palestinian meetings for further consultations with other PLO factions. This will lead to improved Palestinian relations, particularly in view of the relative ease in the situation which was a result of a meeting that was held between the four-sided delegation, led by Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, and the Fatah delegation comprising Faruq Qaddumi and Salah Khalaf. During this meeting, both sides agreed on convening an expanded PLO Central Council meeting in the presence of the PLO factions' secretaries general. This Central Council meeting is expected to be decisive in ending the controversy sparked by 'Arafat's visit to Cairo.

Al-Hasan Cited

JN090619 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources said in Tunis yesterday that the PLO Executive Committee met in Tunis on Saturday, the day before yesterday. These sources added that the meeting comprised three Fatah representatives, besides Yasir 'Arafat, a representative from the Arab Liberation Front, and four

independents. Representatives of the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the PFLP-GC, and As-sa'iqah forces were absent. Nothing has so far leaked out on the issues discussed or the meeting's results.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council, which is the intermediary body between the Fatah general congress and the Central Committee, will be held in Tunis today. This was stated by Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan who said that 54 Revolutionary Council members are currently present in Tunis. Al-Hasan said that the Revolutionary Council meeting will revolve around the latest Palestinian developments and their implications and the preparations for the coming Fatah general congress.

Revolutionary Council To Convene

NC081908 Paris AFP in English 1819 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Tunis, Jan 8 (AFP) — A meeting of the Palestinian Fatah organization's 65-member Revolutionary Council will convene here in the near future, Fatah Central Committee member and Khalid al-Hasan said today.

Fatah is the main component in the strife-torn Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The Revolutionary Council, an intermediate body between Fatah's Central Committee and its congress, originally had 75 members but ten dissident members, including the main dissident leader Abu Musa, were expelled in November 1983.

The coming meeting would lay groundwork for a session of Fatah's congress, Mr Al-Hasan said without stating where or when the session would be held.

A restricted Fatah Central Committee meeting held in Kuwait last October ruled that a congress session should be held this month.

However, that decision was taken before the recent siege of PLO troops loyal to Fatah leader Yasir 'Arafat in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli.

The Revolutionary Council would also examine the "implications and repercussions" of a December, 1983 visit by Mr 'Arafat to Egypt for talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Mr Hassan said.

Khalaf Meets With Tripartite Delegation in Tunis

LD061401 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1121 GMT 06 JAN 84

[Text] Tunis, 6 Jan (KUNA) — Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Central Committee, met here today for the third time in 48 hours with a tripartite delegation representing the Popular Front, the Democratic Front and the Palestinian Communist Party. Members of the delegation are; Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh of the Democratic Front, 'Abd ar-Rahim Malluh of the Popular Front, and Sulayman Najab of the Communist Party. They postponed their departure from the Tunisian capital, scheduled for yesterday evening, to hold more talks with Khalaf. 'Abd Rabbuh refrained from attending the meeting of the PLO Executive Committee held yesterday under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat. In a special statement to KUNA Khalaf expressed his pride at meeting with the representatives of the independent Palestinian organizations, brothers Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, 'Abd ar-Rahim Malluh and Sulayman Najab. He said that his meeting with the tripartite delegation is continuing and that discussion during the meeting focused on the form, content and results of brother Abu Ammar's visit to Cairo. He added: There is a consensus on objecting to this visit both organizationally and politically. We are still examining the issues arising from this visit. Khalaf stressed: The examination is characterized by seriousness, responsibility and complete openness.

Asked about his opinion on whether what was said in the recent statement issued by the Fatah Central Committee constituted a retreat before 'Arafat, Abu Iyad [Khalaf] said: The Central Committee statement does not constitute a retreat from its objection to the visit because it included two violations- the first organizational and the second political- by considering this visit as an open violation of the PNC resolutions, and that it was a unilateral step. He added: The statement is clear in this aspect [words indistinct] focused on the internal procedures, which have not been announced, because our assessment of the visit is that it was wrong and not that it was negligence of Palestinian rights.

'Arafat had said on arrival in the Tunisian capital from San'a' that his visit to Cairo was in implementation of the Palestine National Council resolutions.

Further Details

JN081243 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] In Tunis, the necessary quorum of 9 PLO Executive Committee members out of its 14 members is now complete. Negotiations were held between those organizations that will boycott the meeting and the Fatah movement. However, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the information department in the Executive Committee and member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said before leaving Tunis today that these negotiations were confined to the political consequences of 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his meeting with President Husni Mubarak. 'Abd Rabbuh did not meet with 'Arafat but met with Abu Iyad , member of the Fatah Central Committee, and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

'Abd Rabbuh said that these negotiations will resume in Athens next week. He expressed his objection to an early PNC session because a national consensus must be realized before the session.

It may be noted that 'Arafat circles said that 'Arafat wanted to call for a PNC session to be held next month.

LE MONDE Views Fatah 'Compromise' in Tunis

PM061223 Paris LE MONDE in French 5 Jan 84 p 3

[Eric Rouleau Dispatch: "A Compromise Has Been Found To Safeguard the Unity of the PLO's Main Component"]

[Text] Tunis — It took the 11 members of the Fatah Central Committee — Mr Yasir 'Arafat's organization within the PLO — 4 nights and 3 days of intensive deliberations and negotiations to draw up a draft statement expressing a laboriously constructed consensus. The document, of which virtually every sentence was the subject of discussions that were at times stormy, was to be issued this Wednesday after a final examination.

At first the compromise was not obvious. An apparently insurmountable gulf separated Mr 'Arafat and his 10 companions. The latter demanded proper self-criticism from their chairman regarding his talks with Egyptian head of state Mubarak in Cairo on 22 December. His visit to the only Arab capital that has signed a peace treaty with Israel, they said, placed many Arab states in an embarrassing position and deeply divided Palestinian opinion. For the first time in their existence, Fatah and the PLO were threatened with collapse. That danger seemed very real judging from the wildly contradictory statements gathered from the many military and political cadres who have invaded the hotels of Tunis and its suburbs.

Some of the PLO chairman's critics had no hesitation in describing him as a "Palestinian As-Sadat" and announced from time to time his downfall or resignation. Contrary to his habits, Mr 'Arafat avoided journalists' questions during his furtive appearances. With bowed head and a scowl he muttered that "everything will be settled in the end." However, it was known that he not only refused to criticize himself but was also opposed to his visit to Cairo being mentioned in the final statement. At meetings behind closed doors he tirelessly explained that his "chance" but nonetheless "historic" meeting with President Mubarak took place as a result of the emotion he felt at the warm welcome the Egyptians gave him when his ship called at Port Said and Ismailia.

The compromise enables him to save face while defining the limits of his room to maneuver. In the document the Fatah Central Committee expresses its commitment to its chairman and reiterates its confidence in him, but nonetheless describes his visit to Cairo as "a personal initiative contrary to the rules of collegial leadership traditionally in force within Fatah."

The gravity of the "fault" is attenuated by the vigorous condemnation of Syria and the Palestinian organizations close to it. They are in no position, the final communique states, to criticize the Cairo meeting when they remained silent about the massacre of Palestinians in Tripoli by Damascus forces and about the negotiations under way between the Ba'thist government and the Lebanese Government. Did not the latter conclude peace with Israel under the terms of the 17 May 1983 agreement just like the Cairo government?

The Fatah Central Committee is playing down the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting by making light of its significance. Indeed, the final communique reaffirms the organization's opposition to the Camp David agreements and to the Reagan plan in its present form and confirms its loyalty to the resolutions adopted in February 1983 by the PNC (the resistance's parliament). In this connection it recalls that dialogue with King Husayn aimed at creating a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation could only be continued with a view to creating an independent Palestinian state under the PLO's leadership. The Cairo meeting, the statement specifies, hence falls into the framework defined in this way.

Camp David Is "Irreversible"

Mr 'Arafat's motives are certainly not disavowed since the Central Committee members come out unanimously in favor of continuing efforts to bring Egypt back to the Arab fold. "We all agree that Egypt's influence at the regional and international levels is vital to the success of the Palestinian cause," various Central Committee members told us, "and our criticism of 'Arafat is purely formal since we think that his visit to Cairo was made at the wrong time and was badly prepared."

According to our interlocutors, it had been planned that the Fatah leadership would make overtures to President Mubarak, but only after settling the conflict within the PLO. In addition, Cairo would have been asked to pay a "political price" for the opening of a dialogue which would have had the effect of removing Egypt from its isolation. The "irresponsibility" which 'Arafat is accused of showing lies in the fact that he "cleared" Anwar as-Sadat's successor without obtaining anything in return.

The Fatah leadership members admit in private that the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty is "an irreversible fact." The hope behind their strategy is to call into question, with Cairo's help, only the second part of the Camp David agreements relating to the future of the occupied territories. They want to start a procedure different from the "false autonomy" which the Jewish state proposes to introduce. While the Fes plan adopted by the PLO and the Arab states in September 1982 is officially the one they prefer, they say they are prepared to rubber-stamp the Franco-Egyptian proposals contained in the draft resolution presented to the Security Council in July 1982. That text makes provision in particular for the "mutual and simultaneous recognition" of Israel and the PLO and the opening of peace negotiations between the warring sides.

In the short term, however, the Fatah leadership's main concern is to avert the collapse of the PLO, of which it is the main component. That unity is "our most precious political achievement," to cite Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf]. To that end preliminary talks are to be started without delay with three dissident groups — Mr Georges Habash's PFLP, Mr Hawatimah's DFLP, and the Communist Party — whose representatives are expected to arrive in Tunis from Damascus sometime this Wednesday, 4 January.

Palestinian Political Institutions Meet in Tunis

JN071802 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1546 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The Palestinian revolution's political institutions continue their meetings in Tunis. These insitutions are holding intensive meetings following the completion of the Fatah Central Committee meetings there. During the meetings, the Fatah Central Committee assessed the state of affairs in the Palestinian arena and reviewed the Palestinian moves for the coming stage. The results of these meetings were seen in the Central Committee's statement issued 3 days ago.

Our correspondent has learned that the Fatah Revolutionary Council will meet within the next few days to prepare for the fifth Fatah general congress. Our correspondent adds that several meetings will take place in Tunis with the Palestinian factions in the PLO in order to draw up a Palestinian plan for the militant move in the coming stage.

In another development, our correspondent reports that nine PLO Executive Committee members have met in Tunis within the framework of preparations for the Executive Committee's meeting under brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. This will mark the beginning of a series of meetings by the various PLO insitutions, including the PLO's Central Council and the PNC.

PLO representatives from various states, as well as the representatives of the Palestinian popular and vocational organizations, are also meeting in Tunis. Our correspondent says that brother leader Abu 'Ammar is participating in all these meetings in a basic manner, thus presenting to the conferees his detailed assessment of the situation on all levels in order to reach the best formula to further activate the Palestinian struggle's momentum and strength in the coming stage.

'Arafat Meets PLO Representatives in Tunis

JN061638 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Tunis, 6 Jan (INA) — Yasir 'Arafat met here today with PLO representatives from several nations. Reporting this, the Palestinian news agency (WAFA) says 'Arafat outlined to the representatives the developments in the Arab region, especially the Palestinian situation after the Tripoli battles. The agency said that the meeting which was attended by 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, secretary general of the Arab Liberation Front and member of the PLO Executive Committee, also dealt with the latest developments on the Arab and international levels.

Palestinian Groups Comments on Jordan Parliament

AD-DUSTUR Dispatch

JN061152 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jan 84 p 1

[Salim al-Ma'ni's dispatch]

[Text] Tunis — A number of Palestinian leaders here have commented on Jordan's dissolution the National Consultative Council, and the return of parliamentary life, by saying that this subject is an internal affair, but also has political dimensions.

The Palestinian leaders added that the Palestinian institutions will discuss this decision and its repercussions on the Palestine cause and the situation in the region. Palestinian sources said that the decision will be discussed in light of the available information on this issue.

DFLP-PFLP Joint Command

JN062156 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — The Joint Command of the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has announced that the Jordanian regime's new maneuver regarding recalling the Jordanian Parliament which coincided with Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo reveals the readiness of the reactionary Palestinian rightists and the Jordanian regime to join the U.S. settlement on the basis of the Camp David Accords and the Reagan plan.

In a statement in Damascus today, the Joint Command stressed that the Jordanian regime's step of recalling the Jordanian Parliament, which was dissolved 10 years ago, reveals the Jordanian regime's real intentions and objectives that are represented by confiscating the right of Palestinian representation within the framework of the PLO to pave the way for the capitulatory U.S. settlement of the Palestinian question.

The statement calls on all nationalist Palestinian and Jordanian forces in Jordan and all the Palestinian nationalist forces to close their ranks and struggle so as to deter the capitulatory design, to put an end to the reactionary ambitions in the region, to entrench the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative and to entrench their right to repatriation, self-determination, and a Palestinian state without conditions or restrictions.

At the end of its statement, the Joint Command warns against the seriousness of 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, whose first signs began to appear in Amman through the daring steps to have the reactionary confederation plan succeed and to remove the obstacles that hamper Reagan's capitulatory plan.

PPSF Condemnation

JN072026 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] has strongly condemned the Jordanian regime's new move of reactivating the so-called parliamentary life in Jordan. It said that this move constitutes a violation of the Arab summit conferences' resolutions, which have asserted and are still asserting that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

Khalid 'Abd al-Majid, member of the PLO's Central Council, said that this destructive move by the Jordanian regime is

considered as an attempt to undermine all the achievements and accomplishments the Palestinian people have achieved in order to crystallize their national character. In a statement he made today, 'Abd al-Majid confirmed his rejection of the attempts to harm the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people. He called on all the Palestinians forces, figures, and nationalist organs to close their ranks to confront what the Jordanian regime and the 'Arafat's deviationist leadership are fabricating.

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DFLP Assails Decision

JN061249 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has assailed King Husayn's recent decision to reactivate the Jordanian parliament which was suspended in 1974. The DFLP called on the representatives who were elected from the West Bank electoral districts to decline to attend the Jordanian parliament sessions and to announce their adherence to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Syrian PLO Dissidents

NC081618 Paris AFP in English 1532 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus, Jan 8 (AFP) — Syrian-supported dissidents in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) today denounced the PLO executive committee, which met in Tunis this weekend, as having lost its legitimacy by supporting the "deviationist policy" of its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat.

In a six-hour meeting, ten dissident chiefs criticised Mr 'Arafat for having made his controversial visit to Egypt, which was unauthorised by PLO institutions.

Mr 'Arafat's talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak were a "violation" of the PLO Charter, the rebels said.

Present at the meeting were Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestinian National Council — which serves as the Palestinian parliament — and Colonels Abu Musa and Abu Salih, who recently led dissident forces against Mr 'Arafat and his supporters in Tripoli, north Lebanon.

The dissidents also attacked King Husayn of Jordan for having called for a resumption of the Jordanian Parliament at Amman, in which eight deputies for the Israeli-occupied West Bank are expected to be appointed.

The move was an attempt to "transgress the role of the PLO" and was in perfect agreement with Mr 'Arafat's leadership, the dissidents charged, and called on Palestinians to reject the Jordanian decision.

Palestinian Command Holds Meeting in Damascus

JN081658 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — The Palestinian Command has discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian arena, specifically Yasir 'Arafat's step toward Egypt and the step that followed it in Jordan to revive the so-called parliamentary life there.

This was discussed during a lengthy meeting by the Palestinian Command in Damascus last night which lasted until dawn today. The meeting was attended by Sa'id Musa, and Nimr Salih, members of the revolutionary upheaval movement within the Fatah Movement; PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum; PLO Executive Committee members 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Muhammad Khalifah, and Muhammad Ghunayn; 'Isam al-Qadi, Ba'th Party National Command member and secretary general of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards, the As-Sa'iqah Forces; PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril; Samir Ghawsha, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF]; and PPSF Political Bureau Member Tal'at Ya'qub.

In a statement issued today the conferees said that the gravity of 'Arafat's step in visiting Jordan [as heard] stems from 'Arafat's attempts in coordination with Jordan to bypass and abort the role of the PLO. The conferees stressed that the PLO Executive Committee meeting currently convening in Tunis is illegal in view of the absence of all the Palestinian resistance factions' representatives and that those meeting there as independents represent only themselves. They also viewed the stand proclaimed by the Fatah Central Committee as being a cover for 'Arafat's step, deviations, and a new maneuver to circumvent PLO legitimacy.

The Palestinian Command adopted a series of resolutions and steps for confronting the future state and decided to pursue their meetings during the coming days.

Further Details

JN081919 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] The Palestinian Command held a lengthy meeting in Damascus last night which lasted until dawn today during which it discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian arena in light of Yasir 'Arafat's step toward the Egyptian regime and the step that followed it by the Jordanian regime to revive the so-called parliamentary life in Jordan.

The meeting was attended by Sa'id Musa and Nimr Salih, members of the command of the revolutionary upheaval movement within the Fatah Movement; PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum; PLO Executive Committee members 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Muhammad Khalifah, and Muhammad Ghunaym; 'Isam al-Qadi, Ba'th Party National Command member and secretary general of the Popular Liberation War Van

guards, the As-Sa'iqah Forces; PFLP-GC Secretary general Ahmad Jibril; Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF]; and PPSF Political Bureau member Tal'at Ya'qub.

The conferees discussed the circumstances which the PLO is facing as a result of 'Arafat's step in meeting the Camp David regime and the dimensions of the new step by the Jordanian regime to restore the so-called parliamentary life. They stated that the gravity of this step stems from the Jordanian regime's attempts in coordination with 'Arafat to bypass and abort the role of the PLO.

In a statement issued today, the conferees stressed that the PLO Executive Committee currently convening in Tunis is illegal in view of the absence of all the Palestinian resistance factions' representatives and that those who are meeting as independents represent only themselves. They also viewed the stand proclaimed by the Fatah Central Committee as being a cover for 'Arafat's step and his deviations a new maneuver to circumvent the PLO legitimacy.

The Palestinian command adopted a series of resolutions and steps for confronting the future state and decided to pursue their meetings during the coming days.

Jallud Sees PFLP, DFLP leaders; Jumblatt; Khaddam

LD081102 Tripoli JANA in English 0946 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus, Rabi Awal 4, January 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Staff Major 'Abd As-Salam Ahmad Jallud met here yesterday evening with Dr George Habash, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and with Mr Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Also present at the meeting were Mr Quba'h and Mr Salah, members of the Politburo of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, as well as Mr Salih Ra'fat, member of the Politburo of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Staff Major 'Abd As-Salam Ahmad Jallud met at his residence here last night with Mr Walid Jumblatt, the leader of the Socialist Progressive Party, and one of the leaders of the Lebanese National Salvation Front.

Staff Major 'abd As-Salam Ahmad Jallud met for the second time yesterday with Mr 'abd Al-Halim Khaddam, the deputy premier and foreign minister of Syria.

Plan To Form New PLO

GF081331 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 7 Jan 84 p 1

[Excerpt] It has been learned from a leading Palestinian source here that concentrated counterattempts are currently taking place in order to form a "Revolutionary Liberation Organization" by some organizations with the support of Syria and Libya and that the mission of Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud in Damascus was within this framework.

'Arafat Says He Was Offered State in Lebanon

JN080930 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Jan 84 p 21

[Salim al-Ma'ani's dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] Late last night, *AD-DUSTUR* went to the Hammam Ash-Shati' area to meet and interview 'Arafat. 'Arafat's statement was the first since his departure from Tripoli. Beginning his statement 'Arafat said:

I had foreseen part of the present picture before Beirut. I said that there was a dark tunnel. I said about the children: There will come a day when these chidlren will have to defend themselves. Nobody believed me. When I declared a state of mobilization, which also included children, my brothers in the Central Command asked me: What do you think you are doing? I answered: These chidlren will one day have to defend themselves. Nobody saw them doing so until Israel's savage attack began.

There is a U.S.-Israeli plot to divide Lebanon on a sectarian basis. This plot was approved by certain Arab sides. How could the Syrian weapons pass over certain barriers to strike at the U.S. forces from positions occupied by the Israeli forces? Israel wanted sectarian statelets connected with a confederation. The United States wanted a union similar to Switzerland. A few days ago, Rumsfeld said that Lebanon should be divided. Kissinger also said the same thing. Therefore, there are plans to divide Lebanon up into statelets connected with a sort of confederation. It may be that As-Sadat committed a crime by going to Jerusalem but there are those who committed a greater error and crime by agreeing on these sectarian statlets because they are like a cancer in the human body. This cancer will not stop but will spread in the Arab body. The Arab nation must understand this criminal conspiracy.

'Arafat also said:

During the Tripoli siege a number of Arab officials contacted me. They said: Keep quiet.The Syrians will not enter Tripoli. I answered them saying: I have had agreements before with the Syrians and they have never honored their military agreements. I am certain that they will continue the battle. I am in the right. My Arab nation should know that I will not die for nothing.

I was the first Arab official to speak about the U.S.-Israeli conspiracy. I am not making this up because the plot was revealed during the Shultz-McFarlane dispute on the prerogatives [as published] of the White House and the U.S. Administration. The U.S. media have exposed the conspiracy. I earnestly hope that the Arab nation will read President Hafiz al-Asad's recent statement to *LE MONDE*.

These Arab officials said: Do not speak to Egypt. I said I will speak to Egypt and if I am martyred my martyrdom must have a price. The Arab nation should know why I was about to be killed in Tripoli with 4,000 Palestinian fighters and other Lebanese fighters. I have spoken about the conspiracy and the sectarian division. What I said in the past is now being realized before the whole world.

If we go back to Kissinger's memoirs we find that he says if we have to control this region, we will have to balkanize it. If this happens, there will be petty, sectarian statelets similar to those that existed during the crusades- the statelet of Akko, the statelet of Damascus, the statelet of Tripoli, Aleppo, and others. This is the deal. This is the greatest disaster of all.

AD-DUSTUR: The U.S. policy is the same as the Zionist policy. Many U.S. journalists have written on this subject. The American policymakers have never distinguished between American interests and the Zionist interests. What comes after this?

'Arafat: Before telling you what comes after this, we must know the true picture. They [not further identified] have never been able to penetrate the Palestinian revolution with this silence because the Palestinian revolution is not a sect and has no sectarian policies. It is true that the Palestinian revolution is Palestinian...Palestinian...Palestinian,[ellipses as published]. However the revolution's roots are pan-Arab. We believe in united peoples and territories. History will prove that we were a unifying factor in Lebanon. We support Arab unity. We are aware that we can only restore Palestine through Arab solidarity and not by dismemberment as some Arab parties are endeavoring to do. Frankly, some do not care for anything except for their seats of power. Let the deluge come in the Arab region. Therefore, the Palestinian revolution must make moves because it is a unifying factor; its roots and bases are pan-Arab.

Hence we may speak of the Arab, deeply-rooted Palestinian revolution. We are only a Palestinian facade. The U.S.- Israeli decision is to liquidate the Palestinian revolution. The importance of the Tripoli battle is that I pushed the occupiers off the stage so as to face the Israelis from the sea and the Syrians from the land. There was only the Tripoli stage on which to commit the current murder.

AD-DUSTUR: Does this answer the question of why you went to Tripoli?

'Arafat: I never imagined that they [not further identified] would be so naive and stupid. I went to Tripoli because my military honor and my duty as commander of the Palestinian revolution forces and PLO Executive Committee chairman made it incumbent on me to be at the side of my forces and people. I would not have been able to look at myself in the mirror had I remained in tnis, Algiers, San'a' or any place other than Tripoli. Had I been forced to stay outside Tripoli, I would have resigned. However, the steadfastness which was shown in Tripoli was something else. They wagered that my stay in Tripoli would only be for 3 days. In Tripoli, I did not have my forces, my ammunition, or sufficient terrain on which to move. They had two divisions, one brigade, six Palestine Liberation Army battalions, and two dissident battalions. There were more rockets than during the battles of Beirut and the Beirut siege except on the day of the air strikes and the day of the artillery —26 July and 4 August. [sentence as published]

In Tripoli, there were 4,000 rocket launchers, each had 40 barrels. There were 154 of 130 mm guns, 72 of 122 mm guns, 350 tanks, in addition to many mortars and other weapons.

They wagered on my staying in Tripoli for only 3 days but they were frustrated. I regret that the Arab media borrowed the CIA phrases "Palestinian dissidents" and "pro-'Arafat men." Yhese men are not pro-'Arafat but pro-PLO.

They have offered me part of Lebanon to establish a state. I have proof of this. There are also hidden secrets which I will reveal later when the time is right. The Lebanese nationalist mvoement knows about this issue.

I told them he who does not know Jerusalem does not know anything If I am offered the entire Arab world I will not accept it.

I asked 'Arafat: The Jordanian Government has recalled the Jordanian Parliament that was elected in 1967. How do you view this?

'Arafat answered: I cannot interfere in the affairs of my Arab brothers. I wish them success. I also hope that this step will not have any political effect inside the occupied West Bank.

I am aware that Jordan is facing a constitutional impasse and other problems. I would like to recall His Majesty King Hysayn's remark that we should coordinate among ourselves and turn over a new leaf to face the common enemy. I greatly hope that this will be an internal step.

'Arafat Interviewed By Jordanian Journalists

JN071750 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1546 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar has asserted that the plot to which the Palestinian revolution is being subjected will extend to include the entire Arab region. He added: We were a uniting factor in Lebanon, not a divisive one. Therefore, they tried hard to expel us from Lebanon. This came in a press statement he made to representatives of the Jordanian papers who came to Tunis.

Beginning his statement, Abu 'Ammar reviewed the current situation in light of the rich experience that has accumulated in Tripoli and resulted in removing the thick clouds that had long prevented our Arab nation's masses from seeing clearlythe big plot, which is not restricted to the Palestinian revolution, but will include the entire Arab region. The real actors were seen on the stage in Tripoli, where the world witnessed for the first time an Israeli siege from the sea and a Syrian siege from the land. The two sides took turns in striking at the Lebanese and the Palestinians, he said. Their firing was fiercer than the firing in Beirut during the Zionist invasion of Lebanon. Brother Abu 'Ammar said: This was only a part of the plot, which I had earlier warned against, to divide the region into sectarian states in order to strengthen the U.S. and Zionist grip over it. It was not a coincidence when the U.S. envoy McFarlane talked about the partitioning of Lebanon. It is impossible to imagine the consequences of partitioning as a whole if it hits a part of the Arab body.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: We were a uniting factor in Lebanon, not a divisive one. Therefore, they tried hard to expel

us from Lebanon. Abu 'Ammar questioned the barbaric Zionist aggression against our kinfolk in the Ba'labakk area. He said: Where was the protection they should have received? Where were the missiles which are supposed to be capable of protecting them? Does this mean that everyone can now shed our blood so easily, so clearly, and so blatantly?

Regarding his visit to Cairo and his meeting with President Husni Mubarak, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: Egypt played an official role in preventing a massacre that should have taken place in Tripoli port against 4,000 Palestinians as well as a large number of the most prominent leaders and cadres. In appreciation of this step, we had to express thanks to our brothers in Egypt. This step also had meanings other than its humanitarian and security aspects. Our legitimate institutions adopted resolutions saying that we should get closer to Egypt to the same degree that it gets farther from the Camp David agreements. I say that there have been numerous signals, which we must fully understand, that confirm Egypt's inclinations toward the Arabs and the Arab causes, particularly the Palestine question. As the owners of the cause, it is our duty to act bravely in order to restore Egypt to the Arab ranks and to resume its great role in our Arab world and Arab causes.

Regarding the uproar raised about his visit to Cairo, Abu 'Ammar said: We always face big reactions to any thing we do. What is important is the results of the action. However, I want to make a remark in this regard; namely that Syria andLibya, as well as many other Arab countries, have not severed their relations with Egypt. The relations with a great country like Egypt should be made public on a solid basis instead of keeping them secret. We must help Egypt, and its role is to help us to face the current Arab situation, which lacks the minimum balance.

About the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: Jordan's stand during the Tripoli battle was fraternal. Brother Abu 'Ammar evaluated highly King Husayn's invitation for him to visit Jordan to begin an unconditional dialogue.

Replying to a question on his assessment of the Jordanian measure recalling the Parliament to meet in Amman, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: I understand the Jordanian constitutional motives behind this measure. I hope that this measure will not be given political connotations. We have not suspended the dialogue with Jordan and we will resume it on a fraternal basis and on the basis of a joint confrontation of the one enemy.

Asked about his visit to Jordan, brother leader Abu 'Ammar said: I will visit Amman as soon as we complete the necessary arrangements related to securing the conditions of the fighters and their families who were evacuated from Tripoli.

Palestinian Source on 'Arafat's Cairo Visit

JN071230 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Jan 84 p 24

[Salim al-Ma'ni dispatch from Tunis]

[Excerpt] An informed Palestinian source has told AD-DUSTUR that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat agreed to visit Cairo after being encouraged by Egyptian opposition parties.

The Palestinian source added that the popular Egyptian delegation which included Kamal ad-Din Husayn; Ibrahim Shukri, opposition Labor Party leader; Lutfi al-Khuli, Arab affairs chairman at the National Progressive Unionist Party; and a number of other figures visited 'Arafat during the siege of Tripoli, and presented a political analysis to Abu 'Ammar which asserted the existence of contradictions between the presidential institution, represented by President Husni Mubarak, and the rest of As-Sadatists.

The source said that the delegation urged Yasir 'Arafat to visit Cairo and meet with President Mubarak to encourage him to return to the Arab ranks, and to generate Arab-Palestinian moves toward the return of Egypt to the Arab fold.

The Palestinian source noted that these factors were behind the visit, and were a prelude to the Egyptian-Palestinian agreement between both parties reached after the talks held by 'Arafat on the one hand, and Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Egyptian prime minister; Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Usamah al-Baz, head of the Presidential office, on the other hand.

'Arafat Reportedly To Again Visit Mubarak

PM081442 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 7-13 Jan 84 p 15

[Salih Qallab report: "Yasir 'Arafat: I Will Visit Egypt Many More Times, Whenever the Circumstances are Suitable"]

[Excerpts] At the beginning of the Fatah Central Committee meeting, held in an extremely tense atmosphere following the severe criticism of Abu 'Ammar's visit to Egypt because "'Arafat deviated from the line of Palestinian legitimacy and violated the resolutions passed by the national councils and other bodies," Abu 'Ammar spoke about the Tripoli war and the friends and foes, identifying them by names. He said that Egypt played an essential role in ensuring protection for the Palestinian fighters who left Tripoli. He added that Egypt also solved the security problem that arose when the French refused to extend their protection to the actual moment of departure and to the ports where the Greek ships were anchored.

Among other things, 'Arafat pointed out that, during the siege, Egypt supplied him with arms and ammunition. A Palestinian source said later that a number of Egyptian warships had moved between Alexandria and Tripoli at the time of the siege, delivering arms and ammunition to 'Arafat and his fighters, especially in times of difficulty.

'Arafat also said in his report that Mubarak is not As-Sadat, that the normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations has failed, and that the freezing of these relations has been coupled with an Egyptian official and popular outcry against the Camp David agreements, especially after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the Sabra and Shatila massacres, and the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement.

The Palestinian leader emphasized that he intends to visit Cairo again and again and again, "whenever the circumstances are suitable," and that he will not yield to any "pressure or blackmail."

During the meeting, held under his chairmanship, 'Arafat produced evidence of prior resolutions passed by the PLO Executive Committee at its meeting in Damascus in March last year providing for openness toward Egypt. Abu al-Lutf, [Faruq Qaddumi] head of the PLO's Political Department, had been scheduled to visit Cairo and would have done so had the dissent within Fatah not occurred.

Was that all? Was the 2-hour closed meeting between 'Arafat and Mubarak confined to expressing gratitude and discussing the need for Egypt's return to the Arab fold? The truth is that it was not all. *AL-MAJALLAH* has received information from 'Arafat sources confirming that the PLO will enter a new phase in alliance with Egypt and that major Palestinian and Arab developments will occur in the near future.

According to the same information, the Egyptian president and the Palestinian leader agreed to reject the Reagan initiative as a framework for future moves and they agreed that the dialogue between Jordan and the PLO should proceed on that basis. They also agreed that Egypt, with French support, would work for a meeting of the UN Security council to get the Council to launch an initiative on the Palestinian question derived from the Egyptian-French plan, the Fes summit resolutions, and the Reagan plan. Egypt will hold active contacts with Western Europe, and the PLO with Eastern Europe, especially the Soviet Union, to drum up support for such a move.

The Egyptian president expressed his country's willingness to make efforts with France to arrange for a visit to Paris by the PLO chairman in the near future and also to make contacts with Jordan regarding future steps by it and the PLO. The recent visit to Amman by Egyptian Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Usamah al-Baz falls within this context.

Also according to the same information, the Egyptian president told Abu 'Ammar that, in his opinion, Syria would not officially and seriously oppose his visit to Cairo. He also said that relations between Cairo and Damascus are growing steadily and that the Egyptians want to promote understanding with Syria, not set up a new bloc parallel to Syria's.

It has also been learned that the Egyptian president expressed Egypt's willingness to take practical and executive steps toward rebuilding the PLO. He promised to allow the 'Ayn Jalut forces of the Palestinian Liberation Army back in Egypt, reopen the PLO offices closed 6 years ago and give them full diplomatic status, and allow the PLO radio which was closed when the Camp David agreement was signed to start broadcasting again from Cairo.

Fatah's al-Hasan on Attempts on 'Arafat's Life

GF061024 Doha QNA in Arabic 0805 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Jan (QNA) — Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser and member of the Fatah Central Committee, has warned against attempts to assassinate the Palestinian leader. He said that measures have been taken to abort these attempts.

In statement published in the Kuwaiti newspapers *AL-QABAS* and *AL-ANBA'* today, Hani al-Hasan talked about Palestinian -Jordanian relations. He affirmed that there is serious and real coordination with Jordan. He also affirmed that a meeting will soon take place between King Husayn of Jordan and Yasir 'Arafat.

Al-Hasan said that the most important decision reached with Jordan is considering the year 1984 as a year of agreement on all papers with Europe and including Europe in the political settlement of the Palestinian issue because the U.S. administration will be wholly devoted to the presidential election this year.

Hani al-Hasan affirmed that a meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and French President Mitterrand will soon take place. He also said that Abu 'ammar can visit France any time he chooses to meet with French leaders, but "we are waiting for an agreement on the Palestinian-French joint communique," he said.

CSSR Refuses To Accept PLO Envoy's Credentials

LD071027 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0904 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Rome, 7 Jan (KUNA) — KUNA learned here yesterday from a reliable Arab source that the Czechoslovak Government has refused to accept the credentials of the new PLO representative accredited to it, Nimr Hammad, who held the same position in Rome for 10 years.

The same source said that Hammad is now in Tunis following attempts to establish him in Prague failed for reasons believed to be political.

There are rumors, not officially confirmed, that a row occurred between Hammad and the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry when a Palestinian delegation, including some supporters of the dissident wing of Fatah, that recently visited Prague was received. Hammad left Rome for Prague in the middle of last November to assume his new post.

Prominent Palestinian Figure To Visit Amman Soon

JN090858 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Jan 84 p 1

[Lamis Andoni dispatch]

[Text] Tunis — a Member of the PLO Executive Committee has said that within the next few days a prominent Palestinian official sent by Yasir 'Arafat, will visit Amman for talks on the current Arab and Palestinian developments and the recalling of the Jordanian Parliament and its effects on relations between both

sides. The Palestinian official said in a statement to *AR-RA'Y* that the details of the Palestinian envoy's task were discussed by the PLO Executive Committee. The committee has unanimously agreed that the summoning of the Jordanian Parliament is purely an internal affair.

OPEC Committee To Meet on Violations 10 Feb

LD081522 Kuwait KUNA in English 1242 GMT 8 Jan 84

[By Shamel Kheiry — name as received]

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 8 (KUNA) — Official oil sources here said Sunday that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) International Oil Market Monitoring Committee will hold an important session in Vienna on February 10 to discuss violations of OPEC decisions by some members and a host of other pertenant issues. The senior OPEC officials told KUNA that the committee will convene in the Austrian capital next month under its chairman Dr. Mani Sa'id al-'Utayba, the United Arab Emirates minister of petroleum and mineral wealth. Oil ministers of the other three members namely Algeria, Indonesia and Venezuela constituting the committee, will take part in the meeting, the sources elaborated. They noted that consultations will be held between the four ministers to determine a final date for the meeting which will most probably fall on February 10.

The OPEC sources explained that the committee members will deliberate latest developments on the world oil market topped by the international demand on crude and the available supplies either provided by OPEC or non-OPEC producers.

The committee will make sure that all 13 OPEC members are committed to the quotas assigned to them by the organization in January and december last year, they elaborated. The sources noted that the committee will further ascertain that the OPEC members were selling oil at the official prices.

OPEC ministers reaffirmed committment in their ordinary session held in Geneva last December on the London accord which was concluded after difficult negotiations in March last year fixing OPEC's oil production ceiling at 17.5 million barrels per day and selling at 29 dollars per barrel.

Oil experts warned last month that oil prices will suffer another blow in 1984 if certain member countries continued exceeding their quotas, and named these states as Iran, Libya and Nigeria. Nigeria declared abidance by the OPEC pricing and production policies following the military coup which toppled the regime of President Shehu Shagari by the end of 1983.

The oil producing states expressed fears that the new military rulers will slash their country's oil prices in an attempt to increase their oil exports above their country's OPEC-determined ceiling of 1.7 million barrels per day to face the economic crisis. The sources underlined that the committee members will discuss coordinating OPEC's oil policies with other non-OPEC oil producers such as the Soviet Union, Mexico, Britain and Norway to create a kind of stable oil market.

The coordination is sought to prevent a fresh collapse of the oil pricing system similar to that of March last year when the OPEC members were compelled to effect a major reduction in the organization's marker price from 34 dollars to 29 dollars per barrel, the sources noted. They said that the committee will study spot market prices and latest predictions for economic growth in major consuming countries.

A recent report by the International Energy Agency (IEA) which groups industrial oil-consuming states, predicted that OPEC, facing a weak demand at the oil market, would be forced to cut down its production between 16-16.5 million barrels per day in the first quarter of 1984 if the organization wished to retain oil's basic price.

The sources pointed out that head of the Monitoring Committee has the right to call for an emergency OPEC ministerial meeting if he deems it necessary to coordinate member states' policies regarding pricing and production quotas. The Monitoring Committee was formed in an extraordinary meeting for the oil organization in Vienna in March, 1982.

BAHRAIN

Heir Apparent Receives U.S. Ambassador

CF071214 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1055 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Manama, 7 Jan (WAKH) — Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, received in Manama this afternoon Donald Leidel, the U.S. ambassador to Bahrain. During the audience, which was attended by Shaykh Khalid ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, director of the Bahraini heir apparent's office, bilateral relations and issues of common interest were discussed.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Receives Lebanese Message

LD071523 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1447 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Jan (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah deputy prime minister, foreign and information minister, has received a message from Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim. The message was delivered by Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait Adnan Badrah when he was received by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad in his office this morning. An official source at the Foreign Ministry stated that the message is connected with relations between the two countries and developments in the Lebanese arena.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Security, GCC

LD061148 Kuwait KUNA in English 1012 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 6 (KUNA) — "The recent explosions in Kuwait were passing incidents happening everywhere everyday and may be described as one of the modern diseases" Kuwait's deputy premier, foreign and information minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad said Friday.

In an interview with the Saudi newspaper *AL-JAZIRAH* Sheikh Sabah said the incidents were promptly and firmly dealt with and the collaborators fell in the hands of our security apparatus. The political life in Kuwait is a deep-rooted one and has nothing to do with such incidents that were brought to an end when those collaborators were arrested, he added.

Answering another question, Kuwait's chief diplomat said as a Gulf state, Kuwait is part of an existing entity and "whatever happens here would reflect on other Gulf states". Stressing that security of the Gulf is unseparable, Sheikh Sabah told the paper "any harm or damage in any Gulf country would affect the region as a whole." "He, who is planning to harm you as part of an entity will no doubt try to damage the entire structure", he said, adding "the passage of evil is always one and the same... [KUNA ellipses] and he who insults you as an individual member is equally insulting all other members".

Asked to assess current dangers in the Gulf region in light of regional conflicts and international struggles, Sheikh Sabah said "we need to be careful and on the alert." The emergence of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] is a major stride to confront any dangers likely to be faced by any of its states, he added. The Kuwaiti diplomat called for more coordination "to check any aggression, foil any conspiracies and abort any subversive attempt." The recent incidents in Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah said is [as received] a warning to us all to "move fast and ensure no such thing will take place in any of the Gulf states which are facing greeds from all corners".

On bilateral security agreements and the proposed security accord, the deputy premier said "security and stability in the Gulf are solidly based since the emergence of our communities in this region." Bilateral agreements were also existent through complete coordination and full cooperation between the Gulf states since the old days.

As regards the collective security accord, which is drawing much attention nowadays, Sheikh Sabah said it is "an organizational procedure and should not be over interpretated" or taken "to mean more than it actually does". It should not be taken other than a system to regulate inter-Gulf performance.

Asked if contacts are currently maintained with other Gulf states regarding the explosion incidents, Sheikh Sabah said such contacts "were and are still made with our brothers, who were informed in detail". Those details, he added were officially announced and carried by newspapers and wire services on a global level, he said, adding "we have nothing to hide".

Asked on the GCC plans regarding integration and unity, the deputy premier said the council, since its inception, constituted "our starting point for collective performance towards the common good of the region". This particularly applies in socio-economic, political and cultural fields, Sheikh Sabah noted, adding "our bilateral activities were turned into collective action through the council."

Although the GCC is still young, yet it proved its effectiveness an will no doubt head towards integration in the Gulf which will consequently lead to overall Arab unity, he pointed.

Asked to comment on Kuwait's parliamentary experiment and the attitude of parliamentarians towards the recent incidents, Sheikh Sabah said "it was successful and positive". The national assembly condemned the subversive activities and deputies adopted a clear attitude in serving interests of the nation and citizens. The assembly further expressed concern and displayed an awareness over the issues behind those incidents which aimed at disturbing the security of Kuwait and other Gulf states, he added. The legislative authority had adopted an identical stand to that of the government, he stressed and said the ultimate goal of both is one and the same.

Asked on Kuwait's attitude toward certain information media which exploited the explosion incidents to criticise the state, Sheikh Sabah said "we do not care for this sort of slanders and reject all such futile attempts," he stressed, adding "this is not done from a point of weakness but derived from a sense of forgiveness that emanates from Islam."

Asked, in his capacity as the architect of Kuwait's diplomacy, to comment on 'Arafat's meeting with Egyptian President Mubarak, the deputy premier said "the Palestinians know better." But this does not mean we are unaware of their affairs. We know the circumstances of the Palestinian cause which is also our problem. he said.

We were and are still suffering with our P[illegible]rs, but this issue should be decided by the Palestinian[illegible] The current Palestinian meeting will resolve on the issue and we hope they will maintain their higher interest which is that of the Arabs.

On the forthcoming Islamic summit, Sheikh Sabah said it will be a platform for the unity of Moslems who face threats of domination, and as such it should be will prepared for.

On Lebanon, the deputy premier said that country is still suffering. We are not concerned with the American proposal but rather with the return of Lebanon to all the Lebanese" and that it will depend on itself in protecting its security and stability.[quotation mark as received] We will support the Lebanese in what they think is better for their country. We have great hopes that after this dilemma, Lebanon will return as a unified state for its people without religious differences, he said.

On the forthcoming Arab summit in Riyadh, Sheikh Sabah said the conference will review all Arab causes and problems as well as Arab sufferings in the aftermath of recent occurences. The summit will try to reach solutions to those problems, he said, adding the forum will be significant due to the prevailing changes in and around the Arab region.

The problems encountered by Arab leaders, Sheikh Sabah pointed out, will lead them to adopt decisive stands towards many issues of concern to their people. This is particularly important, Sheikh Sabah told the paper, "because we are confronting a colonialist invasion which is threatening us all." Arabs should unite, otherwise they will be confronted by dangers, one after the other, he concluded.

OMAN

Qabus Receives Sudanese President's Message

GF071428 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1345 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Muscat, 7 Jan (WAKH) — Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman has received a message from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, the contents of which were not disclosed.

The message was delivered by Sudanese Foreign Minister Mr Muhammad Miraghni Mubarak during his meeting today in Muscat with Mr Fahd ibn Mahmud al Bu Sa'id, Omani deputy prime minister for legal affairs.

Mr Fahd and the Sudanese foreign minister also discussed bilateral relations, the means to bolster joint cooperation between the two countries in all fields and the current situations in the Arab and international arenas.

Sudanese Minister Departs

GF081355 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak left the country this afternoon after few days visit to the Sultanate.

Minister Meets Lebanese President's Adviser

GF071216 Doha QNA in Arabic 1133 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Muscat, 7 Jan (QNA) — Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, met here today with Faruq Jabir, adviser to Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, who arrived in Muscat earlier today. During the meeting, they discussed developments in the current situation in Lebanon in particular and reviewed the Arab and international situation in general.

SAUDI ARABIA

Syria, Lebanese Ministers Arrive in Riyadh

LD081056 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1029 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Jan (SPA) — The Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, arrived in Riyadh at noon today. The Lebanese minister of foreign affairs, Dr Elie Salim, also arrived in Riyadh today at 1230. They were received at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs; (Salim Sunbul), chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry and the Syrian and Lebanese ambassadors to the Kingdom.

Beirut Reports Arrival Statements

NC081320 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Up on arrival in Riyadh at noon today, Foreign Minister Elie Salim expressed his hope that his meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will lead to results which would contribute to the stability of the situation in Lebanon. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed his hope that the meeting will succeed in establishing security and stability in Lebanon.

Upon his arrival in Riyadh, Minister Khaddam said everything helping the restoration of peace and security in Lebanon and the realization of the national reconciliation will be discussed at this meeting. He added: We will seek with all our abilities and efforts to ensure that this meeting will achieve what is good for Lebanon and all the Arabs.

Ministers Begin Talks

NC081859 Paris AFP in English 1753 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 8 (AFP) — Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia, Syria and Lebanon tonight began discussions on a Leb-

anese peace plan. Elie Salim of Lebanon, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam of Syria and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met at prince Faysal's private residence here.

Mr Salim and Mr Khaddam arrived this afternoon, hours after the departure of U.S. special envoy to the Middle East Donald Rumsfeld, whom they did not meet. They were expected to leave tomorrow morning after an all-night negotiating session.

The Lebanese peace plan, which would affect areas not occupied by Syria or Israel, involves positioning Lebanese troops between warring Druze, Moslem, and Christian factions in the Beirut area. If the plan goes into effect and works, it is hoped it could bring about a renewal of the Lebanese conference on national reconciliation, which adjourned after meeting briefly in Geneva last November.

King Fahd Receives Syrian Foreign Minister

LD081550 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1537 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Jan (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received today at his office at the Royal court Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of foreign affairs 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs.

Damascus Reports on Meetings

JN090644 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh — A meeting was held in Riyadh yesterday among 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal; and Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim to discuss means of promoting the Lebanese security plan and reviving the Lebanese national reconciliation process. This meeting was held following King Fahd's meeting with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Sa'ud al-Faysal's presence.

Khaddam arrived in the Saudi Arabian capital yesterday. He said that the Riyadh meeting will discuss all possible means of restoring peace and security to Lebanon and realizing a Lebanese national accord.

UAE

Foreign Minister Receives Iranian Counterpart's Message

GF071218 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 Jan (WAKH) — Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of foreign affairs, today received a written message from 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian minister of foreign affairs. The message was conveyed to Rashid 'Abdallah by Mahumd Sadat Madar-Shahi, Iranian ambassador to the UAE, during his meeting with him here today.

An official source said the message deals with Iran's stand on the ICO summit conference due to be held in Morocco on 16 January. Iran has officially announced it will not attend the next ICO summit.

Reportage on Saudi Arabian Prince Talal's Visit

Arrives 7 Jan

NC071618 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA) — Prince Talal Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, UNICEF special envoy and director of the Arab Gulf Development program for supporting international organizations, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on 5-day visit to Egypt.

Prince Talal was received at the airport by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abd al-Hamid Radwan, minister of state for culture and head of the escort of honor; Ambassador Sami Thabit, Foreign Ministry director of protocol; Dr Raja' Mursi, director of the UN office in Cairo; Adolf Kruger, UNICEF representative in Egypt; and Dr (Luciano Cappaletti), representative of the UN development program in Cairo.

Following his arrival, Prince Talal answered journalists' questions. Asked what Egypt means to him, the prince said: Friendly Egypt and its Arab nation led by His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak is in the heart of every Arab. Egypt was mentioned four times in the Koran and as I repeatedly have said, it is the heart of pan-Arabism.

Regarding the role which Egypt assumes on Arab issues and Middle East problems, Prince Talal said that what is taking place in the Arab world is sensitive and delicate; all of us have to act carefully so that our enemies do not take advantage of our mistakes. Prince Talal added that the Egyptian people were always in the forefront of the Arab peoples. All of us have to work to bring the Arab peoples together and to work for them. The problems we have been through have weighed heavily on the Arabs and I pray to God to save us from such troubles.

Meets Mubarak 8 Jan

NC081303 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] This morning President Husni Mubarak received His Highness Prince Talal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, director of the Arab Gulf program for supporting UN development organizations and UNICEF special envoy. Prince Talal arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 5-day visit to Egypt.

Mubarak, Talal Make Statements

NC081528 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] This morning in Al-Qubbah Palace President Husni Mubarak received His Highness Prince Talal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, director of the Arab Gulf Program for supporting UN Development organizations and UNICEF special envoy. The meeting lasted 5 hours.

After the meeting, President Mubarak stated that he welcomes Prince Talal in Egypt and wishes him success.

Prince Talal stated that the relations which link the Egyptian people with the other Arab peoples are historic. He said he found that President Mubarak fully understands mankind's problems. He said he discussed with President Mubarak issues concerning mothers and children. He said: We are prepared to contribute to the success of the work of the Higher Council for mother and child welfare in Egypt through the Arab Gulf Program or the UN organizations.

Prince Talal added that he and President Mubarak discussed various issues, none of which dealt with any political subjects.

President Mubarak held a luncheon for the distinguished guest at the al-Qubbah Republican Palace.

Luncheon; Saddam Husayn Addressed

NC081653 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak said that Egypt always welcomes Brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and other Arab brothers. Mubarak was commenting on what the Iraqi president said yesterday regarding his wish to visit Egypt if he were not so preoccupied.

Following the luncheon banquet which President Mubarak held today in honor of UNICEF special envoy Prince Talal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Mubarak described the Iraqi president's statement as excellent.

Omani Foreign Minister Postpones Visit

NC071641 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1344 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA) — MENA has learned that the visit of Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf al'Alawi to Cairo, scheduled to start tomorrow, Sunday, has been postponed to a later date due to other engagements which he has at the moment.

Senegal's Thiam Arrives With Diouf Message

NC082259 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA) — Senegalese Parliament Speaker Habib Thiam arrived in Cairo today on a 4-day visit to Cairo during which he will attend the meetings of the Francophone International and Parliamentary Association which will begin its work tomorrow, Monday.

Upon his arrival, the Senegalese official said he is carrying a verbal message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf to President Husni Mubarak adding that [words indistinct] strengthening the bilateral parliamentary ties. The Senegalese official was welcomed at the airport by People's Assembly Speaker Kamil Laylah and Chams Eddine Ndoye, Senegal's ambassador to Cairo.

Reportage on UK's Howe's Visit

To Arrive 8 Jan

NC071222 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign affairs, will arrive in Cairo on 8 January for a 2-day visit to Egypt. Talks between Howe and Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will begin Monday. The talks will deal with the developments in the Middle East situation and Britain's and the European countries' role in giving impetus to the peace march, as well as with British-Egyptian relations.

'Ali Statement to UK Radio

NC080848 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] London, 8 Jan (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt wants Britain, the EEC countries, and United States to hold talks with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. In a statement to London radio [as received] on the occasion of today's visit by Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign affairs, 'Ali said: Egypt considers such a dialogue necessary to give the moderate elements in the PLO the chance to take matters in their own hands. In his statement, which was broadcast by radio this morning, 'Ali noted that the United States still insists that Yasir 'Arafat recognize Israel.

Meanwhile, the radio said Geoffrey Howe considers the recent meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat "an initiative that calls for optimism and that proves Egypts importance in the Arab world."

Arrives in Cairo

NC081644 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA) — British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Geoffrey Howe arrived in Cairo this evening at the start of a Middle East tour that will include Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. He was welcomed at the airport by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Following his arrival, the British secretary said it is due to the importance of Egypt and the close relations between Egypt and the United Kingdom that he began his tour of the Middle East with this visit to Egypt. He added that the visit will provide an opportunity to exchange views with Egyptian officials on the Middle East situation.

Howe also noted that the British Government is keen on achieving some progress towards peace in the area and that his visit to the area — his first — is aimed at gathering momentum for the peace efforts. Howe added: I hope to hear and learn the different viewpoints because the United Kingdom is greatly interested in the area. I hope to find out the steps that can be taken to further the march of peace in the area. The British foreign secretary said that during his 2-day visit he will meet President Husni Mubarak; Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali also made statement to the press in which he welcomed the British foreign secretary's visit to Egypt, pointing out that the visit aims at continuing the exchange of views between the two countries. He also noted that the United Kingdom is a member of the European community. 'Ali added: We hope to get support for a peaceful solution as well as for the efforts which are being and will be exerted.

Answering a question on the UN role regarding the Middle East issues, 'Ali said: We first have to make some practical efforts before going to the United Nations. He added that the UN role is of extremely vital importance in solving world problems in general and the Middle East problem in particular.

'Ali answered another question regarding Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt, saying: We regard 'Arafat's visit to Egypt as a positive element in the peace process and hope the PLO can make its own decision in accordance with the needs of the area, the aspirations of the Palestinian people, and the need to solve the Palestinian problem.

Asked about 'Arafat's leadership of the PLO, 'Ali said that our present aim is to support the PLO in making an independent decision. Of course, he added, this is a matter which depends on the constitutional Palestinian institutions which alone have the right to decide on their leadership. However, he said, 'Arafat is the moderate element in the PLO.

Upon his arrival, the British secretary was also received by Michael Weir, British ambassador to Cairo; Hasan Abu Sa'dah, Egypt's ambassador to London; as well as several Foreign Ministry officials.

The official talks between Kamal Hasan 'Ali and the British foreign secretary are scheduled to begin tomorrow, Monday, before noon. The talks will center on the Middle East situation, particularly Lebanon, the Palestinian problem, the Iraqi-Iranian war, the European role in furthering the peace process, and bilateral relations. The talks will be preceded by Howe's meeting with Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah.

More Reaction to Israeli Occupation Policies

Ghali: Confidence Building Needed

NC080700 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2246 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has emphasized that Israeli punishment measures taken against the Palestinians project the ugliest image of military rule in the occupied territories. He said Israel's intransigent attitude to the rights of Palestinians proves Israel is not serious about participating in the peace process. Ghali added that this is the obstacle against which the efforts for a peaceful settlement, as well as the whole peace process, might crash.

In an interview with the Sunday edition of *AL-AKHBAR*, Dr Butrus Ghali demanded that Israel implement confidence-building measures. He also demanded that Israel allow the exit of the Palestinian people's representatives in the West Bank and Gaza, that is, the 160 PNC members, so that they will attend the upcoming meeting in Tunis. This action would be a gesture made on the path of building confidence for the Palestinians. Dr Ghali emphasized that the most obnoxious image of military rule is collective punishment and comprehensive retribution. The reason is that the process of psychological and physical humiliation now figures as nothing other than a permanent system of government. Furthermore, mass arrests are also conducted merely on suspicion, and without any justification.

In concluding the interview, Dr Ghali affirmed that in all international forums, Egyptian diplomacy has stressed the illegitimacy of Israel's measures and practices in the occupied Palestinian territories — measures and practices aimed at changing the geographical, structural, and demographic character of those territories. Dr Ghali noted that Egypt has categorically rejected that policy. because it is illegal and invalid under the stipulations of international law and under the unanimous resolutions passed by the UN Security Council and General Assembly.

Envoys To Protest Practices

NC071539 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA) — The Foreign Ministry today notified all of Egypt's ambassadors abroad of its stand regarding Israel's application of Israeli laws in the occupied Arab territories and its illegal and racial practices which contradict all international laws. The Foreign Ministry asked the ambassadors to inform the officials in their respective accredited countries of the Egyptian stand, to explain the dimensions and gravity of the Israeli practices, and to call on those countries to take all measures to stop Israel from continuing its illegal practices and intentions regarding the application of Israeli law to the occupied Arab territories — a matter which contradicts the resolutions of Geneva and the Hague, the UN Charter, and the framework of peace in the Middle East.

'Ali Message to India

NC071340 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA) — Egypt has continued its activity on the international level to confront Israel's violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Israel's intentions to apply Israeli law in the occupied Arab territories — a situation considered a violation of the UN Charter, the Hague and Geneva resolutions, and the framework for peace in the Middle East. It is also considered a racist measure. Within this framework, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today sent a message to India's foreign minister, India being the current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. In the message he called on the nonaligned states to take action to confront the Israeli violations and intentions regarding the application of Israeli law in the occupied Arab territories, to halt the racist Israeli measures and its violation of all international laws in the occupied Arab territories. The message was sent through diplomatic channels and delivered by Egypt's ambassador in New Delhi 'Amr Musa.

Reportage on Ghali Activities in Paris

Meets PLO Official 8 Jan

NC082045 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Paris, 8 Jan (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, tonight met with Ibrahim Sus, PLO representative in Paris, within the framework of continuous contacts between Egypt and the PLO. They discussed the latest developments in the Middle East and assessed the situation in the area. Dr Ghali also received Ghassan Tuwayni, Lebanese presidential adviser for foreign affairs, and discussed with him the latest developments in Lebanon in particular and the Middle East in general. It is well-known that Ghali is presently visiting the French capital on the first leg of a tour which will take him to Benin and Togo.

On Current Situation

JN061946 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1750 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Interview with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, conducted in Paris by Antoine Nawfal, Radio Monte Carlo's news director, in the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow"; date not given — recorded]

[Text][Antoine Nawfal] You are on a quick visit to France during which you will meet with President Francois Mitterrand and External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson. You are also carrying a message for the French president from the Egyptian president. We are not asking you to reveal the details of the message, but can you give us an idea of its purport?

[Butrus Ghali] As you said, the purpose of the visit is to convey a message to President Mitterrand and to hold talks with the French foreign minister. The objective of these talks is to assess the situation in the Middle East following Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo on 22 December, Egypt's election to the UN Security Council — Egypt began its membership in the Council as of 1 January — and France's chairmanship of the European Community. Egyptian diplomacy has always been interested in the role of the European Community and France's role within the Community, because it believes the European Community can play a mediating role between the Arab world and the United States and between Israel and the Arab states. It can contribute to the peace process through this mediation.

[Nawfal] Do you believe the presence of all these factors — that is, Egypt's role in the Security Council and France's role in Europe — make it reasonable to expect that 1984 will be the year for acheiving security and solutions to all of the issues, especially the Middle East issues?

[Ghali] Undoubtedly, these factors will help both countries and all peace-loving states play a conciliatory role in the region.

However, we must not forget that 1984 is an election year in the United States. Therefore, U.S. concern for the Middle East crisis may not be so strong. An additional effort must be exerted by the Arab and European states to enhance U.S. concern for the issue despite the election year. However, the positive aspects I mentioned are faced by negative ones, including the election year in the Untied States. Therefore, we must make up for that by holding more contacts with the U.S. side whether through European and UN channels or bilateral contacts.

[Nawfal] You talked of UN channels. Do you expect the Egyptian-French draft resolution on the Palestine question to be revived?

[Ghali] Undoubtedly, the Egyptian-French draft resolution, which is still on the Security Council agenda, is one of the bases for diplomatic action. But we must not exaggerate this draft resolution, because if the Untied States rejected it — as you know, the United States has the right of veto and can prevent its issuance — we would not be able to pass the resolution. Therefore, the call for contacts with the United States, the USSR, and all the states which enjoy the right of veto to make sure they will not use this right to prevent the issuance of this draft resolution. The draft resolution is an important point, and action is possible within the UN framework to shed light on new aspects of the Palestine question or Lebanese issue. But we must understand that there is no hope of issuing this resolution without the approval of the United States.

[Nawfal] Could you refresh our minds on the purport of the Egyptian-French draft resolution. Could this resolution be outdated?

[Ghali] Undoubtedly, the draft resolution will have to be reworded if it is to be discussed. Without going into detail, the draft resolution is based on a simple idea. Resolution 242 contained one idea; namely, that the Palestine question is one of refugees. We want to correct this through a new draft resolution to say that the Palestine question is not one of refugees, but instead is a question of people who have legitimate rights, foremost of which is the right to self-determination and to the establishment of a state. This is the basic objective of this draft resolution; it is to rectify Resolution 242, which, up to now, is the only resolution for any future action, whether with regard to the Reagan initiative, the peace treaties, the Fes initiative, or the Ceausescu plan. All of the plans which have sought a solution to the Middle East issue are based on Resolution 242 which was issued in November 1967. This resolution must be amended by a new resolution. This new resolution would be complementary to Resolution 242.

[Nawfal] Are you planning to discuss this subject with Minister Cheysson.

[Ghali] Undoubtedly, one of the subjects which will be discussed with the French foreign minister will be this Egyptian-French initiative which was submitted to the Security Council 2 years ago and which, as I said, is still on the Council's agenda.

[Nawfal] One of the new developments you spoke about was Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt. This visit has created a big controversy. Was it a spontaneous or planned visit?

[Ghali] Undoubtedly, there are continuous contacts between the PLO and Cairo government. These contacts have continued since November 1977, the date of the president's visit to Jerusalem. The only difference is that while the contacts before the Beirut incidents were clandestine, those after the Beirut siege were open. The PLO has a permanent office in Cairo. The office, which has an elite of Palestinian leaders, is very active. Therefore, there is continuous contact between the Palestinian leaders in Cairo and the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. The visit took place following contacts between the two sides and the agreement of both sides on the importance of the visit.

[Nawfal] The general belief on the Palestinian side after the recent Fatah meetings is that 'Arafat's visit to Egypt has dealt a blow to Egyptian-Israeli relations. Is this correct?

[Ghali] This is not correct, because Egyptian diplomacy has made it clear to everyone that it wants to restore relations with the Arab world. It sees no hope for settling Arab issues without real Arab solidarity. But this return or Arab reconciliation must not be at the expense of Arab pledges to the Israeli side. Egypt has pledged under international treaties to establish peaceful relations with Israel. Egypt will stick to its international commitments and those treaties.

[Nawfal] Elections will take place in Jordan and the West Bank to elect members to a new parliament and senate. Don't you think this will affect Jordanian-Palestinian relations on the one hand and weaken the resolution that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people on the other?

[Ghali] Actually, contacts must take place between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides. We demand and encourage these contacts. We believe that such contacts will lead to agreement on the principles under which both sides can defend the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. This must take place through contacts between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides.

We earnestly hope that the negotiations which ended on 10 April of last year will be resumed. We hope that each of the two sides will be able to reach a new formula, through which Egyptian diplomacy can participate in any coming negotiations to discuss the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The discussion itself is considered a positive contribution to further strengthen the moderate course in the Arab world and even inside Israel, and also to confront extremism whether it be Israeli, Palestinian, or Arab. Egyptian diplomacy is founded on dialogue and negotiations. Neither one can be achieved but through moderation.

[Nawfal] There is an Arab desire to restore Egypt to the Arab ranks and Arab institutions including the Arab League. No one is asking Egypt to return and Egypt is not expressing its desire to return. Do you believe that the coming Arab summit will be an occasion for Egypt's return?

[Ghali] If there is a consensus, then Egypt would welcome its return to the Arab ranks. However, if the Arab world's return to Egypt or Egypt's return to the Arab world were to bring new Arab differences, then Egyptian diplomacy will see that it is not in the interest of peace to open the gate for the new differences. What is important today is to handle urgent issues, foremost of

which are the Lebanese issue and Palestine question. Naturally, there are strong ties between the two issues. The Arab world must want to handle these issues instead of concentrating on sideline issues that may lead to other conflicts, which in turn will weaken the Arab world's interest in handling the Lebanese and Palestinian issues. This is in addition to other serious issues such as the continuing Iraqi-Iranian war. The Arab world must focus on the primary and not the minor issues. I do not mean by this that the Arab world's return to Egypt or Egypt's return to the Arab world is a minor issue. But I say that such a return would be welcomed should there be a consensus. If Egypt's return would lead to new differences then we better postpone it until we reach the aspired consensus.

[Nawfal] You mentioned the Iraqi-Iranian war. How do you expect that war to develop? Do you consider the current rapprochement between Iraq and Egypt decisive?

[Ghali] There is no doubt that the rapprochement between Baghdad and Cairo is decisive. This has now been the case for more than 2 years. There are strong relationships between the two countries, whether on the popular level since there are more than a million Egyptians in Iraq, or on the diplomatic level since there is coordination between the two countries' diplomacies in the various international forums. This is in addition to the strong relationships in the economic field since there are numerous economic deals between Baghdad and Cairo. There are indeed strong ties between the two countries. We hope that we will be able to contribute to the establishment of peace in that region through these strong ties.

[Nawfal] You consider the Lebanese issue the most prominent one these days. How do you think that issue will develop? Do you think new developments will facilitate the convocation of a dialogue among all the concerned parties including Israel, Lebanon, and Syria?

[Ghali] Actually, the Dialogue Conference held last month in Geneva was a positive step. We think the next step should be the convocation of a similar conference and more contacts among the various Lebanese leaders. Egyptian diplomacy encourages that and voices its support for President al-Jumayyil's legitimate government. Egyptian diplomacy thinks that what should be done now is the achievement of rapprochement. After that, Lebanon can move to other steps through its contacts with the United States, Syria, or Israel until it reaches a final solution. I am optimistic. I think that sooner or later Lebanon will enjoy its political independence and national unity and accord. What is more important than that is that Lebanon enjoy its territorial integrity.

[Nawfal] However, the national accord will not be sufficient in itself because there are Syria and Israel as well. How do you expect things to develop between those two countries?

[Ghali] Without going into details, I think what is needed is more diplomatic contacts, moves, and dialogue, whether that dialogue takes place between the Lebanese and Israeli Governments or the Lebanese and Syrian Governments. I believe in dialogues and negotiations, which I consider methods capable of surmounting the most difficult barriers.

[Nawfal] As we said earlier, you intend to meet President Francois Mitterrand and Cheysson. My final question is on Egyptian-French relations. Where do these relations stand? Are they developing continuously? How do you expect them to develop in the future?

[Ghali] Relations between Egypt and France are excellent. There are various economic and trade deals as well as distinguished cultural relations. Egypt has joined the French-speaking States' Agency, which expresses Egypt's concern in the French culture and civilization. There is a coordination between the Egyptian and French diplomacies within the framework of the United Nations as well as other international forums. All of this aims at increasing the joint action to bring peace to the Middle East. There is a larger common denominator between Egypt and France, namely, that each of the two countries believes that we have to work to achieve a comprehensive, durable, and just peace in the Middle East. Both countries believe that neither peace nor security shall prevail in Europe and the whole world unless we first achieve peace and security in the Middle East. That common faith of Egyptian and French diplomacies is the greater common denominator which characterizes the noble relations between the two countries.

[Nawfal] Thank you mister minister.

Favors 'Arafat Participation

NC071545 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Paris, 7 Jan (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has announced that Egypt welcomes PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat should he decide to reside in Cairo.

In an interview shown this afternoon on French Television Channel I, Ghali said that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo does not represent a change in Egyptian policy toward the Middle East but rather a continuation of that policy, because 'Arafat is a moderate man, and his participation in the peace process could promote the efforts to solve the Middle East crisis. The Egyptian minister called for the need to give 'Arafat some guarantees and encouragement to enter into a dialogue with Israel on an equal basis. Ghali added that Israel does not want 'Arafat. However, Egypt and the other states which desire peace must find a solution that would make it possible to hold such a dialogue.

Ghali expressed the hope that negotiations will take place between Jordan and the PLO and said that if such negotiations were toachieve success, Egypt would participate in them and negotiations could be started with Israel with the participation of the United States, to arrive at a formula regarding the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Egyptian minister warned that if no peace process exists, there is a danger that terrorism will spread in the area. Therefore, we want to enter into a new peace process and a new framework for negotiations. Ghali affirmed that Egypt condemns and resists terrorism, and encourages moderation in the entire Arab world.

Regarding U.S. President Ronald Reagan's plan, Ghali said that when the Americans forwarded their plan, the plan encountered Arab and Israeli opposition. In face of such objections, the

Americans refused to persist in their plan. However, if there is Arab acceptance and Israeli rejection, U.S. diplomacy will have to find ways to obtain a change in the Israeli position, and then it will be possible to undertake a new dialogue.

On Egyptian-Arab Relations
JN081616 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Paris, 8 Jan (INA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt believes that assistance to and support for Iraq in defending the Arab land against Iranian expansionist designs is a duty imposed by Arab solidarity.

This was contained in an interview the Egyptian minister granted last night to the INA correspondent in Paris. Dr Ghali called on all Arab countries to assist Iraq in its war against Iran and added that Iranian aggression is not only directed against Iraq but also against the entire Arab nation. He emphasized the need to put the question of solidarity with Iraq at the top of the Arabs' list of priorities as it constitutes the minimum level of joint Arab action.

The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs described the Iraqi-Iranian war as one of the most serious challenges that the Arab nation has faced and added that it is a real test of the principle of Arab solidarity.

Dr Ghali expressed regret over the intransigence of Iranian diplomacy in rejecting the peace initiatives calling for an end to the war through negotiations. He said this Iranian stubbornness is responsible for the war's prolongation.

Dr Butrus Ghali praised Iraqi-Egyptian relations, and said they are excellent on all levels. He added that there is complete coordination between the two countries in international forums such as the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement. He added that the objective of this joint action is to urge international public opinion to end the war by making Iran accept the principle of negotiation, to mobilize Arab public opinion and have it become aware of the threats this war poses to the region, and to emphasize the need for the Arabs to rally around Iraq to enable it to stand fast in the military field and bring about the success of its initiatives for achieving a peaceful and just settlement of the dispute.

Dr Ghali pointed out that more than 1 million Egyptians currently reside in Iraq and are contributing to the great economic development operation underway there.

In reply to a question on the possibility of Egypt's return to the Arab League and its resumption of normal diplomatic relations with the Arab countries, Dr Butrus Ghali said: On this issue, it is not permissible to confuse the form and the content. We are not rushing our return in an official manner because it will ignite peripheral battles and create new and serious divisions and additional disputes which will exhaust the Arabs' potentials and divert their attention from important issues that are facing the Arab nation, such as the Iraqi-Iranian and Lebanese wars. For the present time, we are content to have unofficial relations with our Arab brothers, and we have such relations with all the Arab League members with the exception of Syria and Libya. He stressed that the absence of diplomatic representation at ambassadorial level does not greatly affect the nature and quality of Egypt's relations with the Arab countries.

On Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Cairo and his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Dr Ghali expressed the hope that this visit would open new scopes for joint Arab action in the interest of the Palestinian cause. He added: Within this framework, we believe it is inevitable for Jordan and the PLO to hold negotiations for the establishment of a joint front that will bring about Palestinian participation in a Jordanian delegation or an Egyptian delegation if the need for such a measure arises in the future.

Dr Ghali said that the joint Egyptian-French initiative cannot be submitted unless the UN Security Council's permanent members, and specifically the United States, approve it in principle. This is so to avoid the use of the veto because the objective of this step is not to bring about a new confrontation but to adopt an international resolution that will contribute to any new move toward peace with the approval of all parties concerned.

Butrus Ghali arrived in Paris 2 days ago and delivered a written message to French President Francois Mitterrand from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the situation in the Middle East.

Mubarak Addresses Christmas Message to Christians
NC062141 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that Egypt will remain a unique model of coexistence among various creeds and religions for mankind's happiness and life's prosperity. In a congratulatory message addressed to our Christian brothers on the occasion of the Christmas holiday, President Mubarak said:

Our people, Christians and Muslims, have stood in one rank and cohesion in all battles of liberation and construction which they have waged in defense of their right to formulate their life in their land in accordance with their principles, beliefs, and values.

The following is the text of the President's message:

Since the dawn of history, the sun of divine guidance has been shining on our land. Our people knew the light and carried the torches of faith and knowledge through all ages. It was not strange for the holy family to come to our country to find security. Our people have opened their heart and mind to Christ's message in their belief in the call for fraternity and peace which he preached and called for. Our people then opened their heart to the sublime message of Islam which complemented the heavenly messages and concluded the teachings that God sent to his worshippers. On the pure soil of Egypt, minarets and bell towers uniquely and lovingly embraced one another in fraternity, guiding the people along the road of right, justice, and freedom.

Our people, Muslims and Christians alike, stood cohesively together in all battles of liberation and construction which they

waged in defense of their right to formulate their own life in their land in accordance with their principles, beliefs, and values.

During the 1919 revolution, the crescent and the cross were side by side in a unique national unity which was the strong shield protecting our Egypt against the plots launched by those lying in wait for every green stem growing in our land. The call of: "God is great" which Muslim and Christian fighters repeatedly voiced, heralded the victory in the glorious October war.

Our Egypt, which the almighty God mentioned in the holy books, has been and always will be a unique model of coexistence among the various creeds and religions for mankind's happiness and life's prosperity. The Egyptian man, who believes that religion is for God and the homeland for all, is capable by his spiritual, inventive, and creative resources to add daily to his great cultural heritage by adhering to the sublime values and firm principles upon which Egyptian society was founded throughout the centuries, foremost of which is forbearance, fraternity, and eagerness to safeguard the national unity, and renouncement of division, fanaticism, rancor, and hatred.

On this occasion, we turn to almighty God to always safeguard Egypt as a bastion of faith, a beam of fraternity and love, a great model of forbearance and coexistence, and a renovating source of spiritual and cultural radiance. Those are the pillars of Egypt's glory and the basis of the ingenuity of our noble people. We ask God to grant us all success in what pleases him and to guide us along the right path. May God's peace, mercy, and blessing be upon you.

Muhyi ad-Din Discusses Forthcoming Elections

NC081520 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din has affirmed the importance of the forthcoming People's Assembly elections. He said this is a basic function in democratic practice, pointing out that it is considered a positive addition and a strong impetus for democracy in the area and the whole world.

In a statement he made today to journalists Dr Muhyi ad-Din said: In addition to our preoccupation with preparations for the elections, we are also following up and implementing the government's program, and the ministers and deputies follow up this program in the field.

The prime minister said the National Democratic Party is active throughout the country, and the deputies are active at all levels. There is also a close link between the party leadership and its rank and file. He added that young people will be nominated for election to give a new color to the Assembly.

In reply to a question on the formation of an interim government before the elections, the prime minister said this is not being considered.

In reply to a question about the Al-Wafd Party, he said that every new party is considered a new addition to the field.

Regarding the tribute paid to the interior minister concerning the Muharram Bayk elections in Alexandria and the victory of [the National Progressive Unionist grouping] party in them, the prime minister said: The praise is appreciated. Elections have been honest and impartial since the beginning of his work in the ministry in 1982.

New Supervisor in Foreign Ministry Appointed

NC071640 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has issued a decree appointing Ambassador Muhsin Fahmi as an official in charge of the offices of the foreign minister and the minister of state for foreign affairs; a position previously held by Ambassador Jamal Mansur who has retired. Ambassador Fahmi was Egypt's ambassador to Thailand.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,333

JN061919 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,333 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 January 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

While our great Iraqi Army celebrates with our struggling people the 63d anniversary of its establishment, it affirms that it will remain the shield of the homeland and that it carries in the hearts and consciences of its brave men the trust and honor of defending the dear homeland and the Arab nation's values and existence. Under the leadership of its commander Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, the Army will continue to achieve great victories over the evil and expansionist forces that are ruling in Iran.

The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. In the central sector of the front, one of our forward units observed a group of enemy soldiers opposite Iraqi positions and opened fire at them with various types of weapons, killing three soldiers.

2. One of our forward units used artillery to shell a number of enemy targets opposite our positions east of Basra, killing and wounding several soldiers.

3. The suspect Iranian regime today shelled Mandali and its environs with artillery. The shelling damaged several civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 January 1984

Communique No 1,334

JN071700 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA) — Forward Iraqi units have clashed with an Iranian patrol which attempted to advance toward our positions east of Basra. A number of the patrol members were either killed or wounded. Iraqi military communique No 1,334 issued here tonight said that Iraqi forward units opened fire at a number of Iranian positions in the central sector of the front destroying four infantry positions and one hardware stockpile. One excavator was destroyed in the Maysan sector and one machinegun was destroyed in the northern sector.

The communique also said that the city of Mandali and the villages of Sayyid Sadiq and Sirawan came under Iranian enemy artillery fire yesterday and today. The enemey fire damaged a number of civilian buildings and injured a civilian.

The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,334 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our brave Army units are continuing their daring operations at the front against the rancorous enemy forces. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units opened fire at an enemy patrol which attempt to advance toward our positions in the area east of Basra. The patrol members were forced to flee after suffering a number of casualties.

2. In the central sector of the front, our forward units opened fire at a number of enemy positions opposite Iraqi positions destroying four infantry positions and one hardware stockpile.

3. One excavator was destroyed in the Maysan sector.

4. One machine gun was destroyed in the northern sector of the front.

5. The evil Khomeyniite regime's artillery yesterday and today shelled the city of Mandali and the villages of Sayyid Sadiq and Sirawan, damaging a number of civilian buildings. One civilian in Sirawan sustained various injuries.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 January 1984

Communique No 1,335

JN081725 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,335 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 8 January 1984]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate.

Our brave Armed Forces continued their activities against the forces of the rancorous Khomeyniite enemy in the various operational sectors. The results for yesterday evening and this morning are as follows:

1. A group of enemy personnel were sighted in front of the positions of our frontline units in the central operational sector. Our units attacked this group with all types of weapons, killing seven of the enemy.

2. Our frontline units opened artillery fire on a group of enemy personnel in front of their positions in the northern operational sector, killing two of the enemy and wounding several others.

3. One was killed in the area east of Basra.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 January 1984

Saddam Husayn Discusses 'Arafat Cairo Visit

JN072046 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jan 84

["Text" of speech by President Saddam Husayn during his meeting with a Palestinian Workers' Federation delegation in Baghdad on 7 January — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Please convey to the Palestinian workers and people both inside and outside the occupied territories our absolute determination to preserve Palestine in our hearts and between our eyes no matter where our face is directed. Now we are facing the evil enemy on our eastern borders in order to defend Iraq, Palestine, and the entire Arab homeland. The fact will remain that Iraq's battle on the eastern borders represents all the honorable battles in defense of the Arab nation. These battles help in making our people emotionally stable.

Had Iraq failed in its battles against the Iranian enemy, the Zionists would have invaded the entire Lebanese territory and other parts of Arab land. This is because the Arab psyche is the same no matter how vast the geographical areas of the Arab nation may be. Any drawback in Syria would adversely affect the entire Arab nation; any positive development in Egypt would reflect on the entire Arab nation.

Since 1978, we have adhered completely to the policy of not only refraining from interfering in Palestinian affairs to tactically support this or that party, but also of opposing any moves by others to interfere in Palestinian affairs. In my opinion it is the fragmentation of the Palestinian organizations that calls for this interference. The fragmentation will lead to weakness rather than innovation. The more unified the Palestinian resolution, the stronger the Palestinian voice will become. We oppose any Arab or foreign interference favoring any internal Palestinian opposition to the stands of the PLO or the Fatah chairman. When the Palestinians, of their own free will, decide to choose their leaders, this will be their own affair. However, when the choices are made through serious Arab and international efforts which go against the PLO and Palestinian decisionmaking, we will oppose them. This stand stems from our pan-Arab, principled position rather than from our technical, political considerations.

We are not surprised by the clamor raised by opportunistic sides against 'Arafat's visit to Egypt. We are surprised that some good persons have been affected by this clamor and that they were forced to express views which they themselves do not believe. We appreciate your position and are aware of your difficulties which make some of you express opinions that are contrary to your own principles. In this case, what you require is courage that would enable you to defend yourselves. In this case the strength also comes from self-defense as well as from taking the initiative to attack. Therefore, we are surprised [as heard] by the clamor which was raised about 'Arafat's visit to Egypt.

I do not believe that Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] sold anything. I do not believe that Brother President Husni Mubarak bought anything from him. Both men are mature. They are at a level of responsibility which would prevent them from entering in a matter of buying and selling in this fateful cause. President Husni Mubarak made a bold decision to protect the Palestinian ships from any Israeli attacks. We did not know about this decision beforehand but learned about it later. We are aware of the significance and value of this decision. Why should we be surprised when Abu 'Ammar thanks Mubarak for this action? I do not think that by doing so 'Arafat is offering concessions to Mubarak. Likewise, Mubarak does not demand concessions from him.

There is a difference between saying that the views are identical when one Arab official visits another, and saying that there is an interaction of ideas. In the first case, when we say that the visit means identity of views, we must infer that the visit is uncalled for. The visit will be necessary when there are views to be discussed in order to reach a better position. We believe that there should be a general framework for the Arab positions. But there should be a separation between the stand of every Arab country and the other stands. Therefore, we do not find Abu 'Ammar's visit to Egypt surprising. If I am not engaged following up the battles at the front, I will visit Egypt and eat somthing with President Mubarak in answer to these opportunistic stands. I would have told them: You have the right to criticize Abu 'Ammar on essential issues if you have to. When an Arab visits another Arab you should not raise a hue and cry about it.

You know Iraq's position in the Baghdad summit. However, when Egypt takes a bold position in protecting the Palestinians, we thank President Husni Mubarak in appreciation of this position. Please convey our greetings to Abu 'Ammar and the Palestinian people. You are aware of Iraq's position on Palestine since 1948. Israel also knows this better than some of the Arabs know it.

Saddam Husayn Address to Nation on Army Day

JN061130 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0904 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Address by President Saddam Husayn on Army's 63d anniversary — live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

O beloved Iraqis. O sons of the glorious Arab nation. O fighting men at the front and everywhere. You are raising aloft Iraq's banner and heroically defending its sovereignty and dignity. I greet you on this great occasion, the 63d anniversay of our brave Army. We are celebrating our Army's anniversary for the fourth time while this Army is waging a battle to defend Iraq's land, dignity, present, and future. All these years our Army has been recording great achievemens in efficiency and ability that are unprecedented in the history of Iraq and the Arab nation despite the bright pages of this history.

The circumstances of the present degeneration and deterioration and the current selfish trends which try to distort the facts in our region will not be able to hide the ever-rising truth; namely, that Iraq with its great people and daring Army has realized an achievement which has not been taken into account. The suspect, short-sighted accounts did not take into consideration this achievement. Hence, Iraq affirmed its strength and ensured its future. It has destroyed all the ambitions and wagers that were

directed agaisnt it and against the Arab nation.

The enemies, the cowards, and the deviationists thought that the prolongation of the war against our country and Army would result in weakening us and forcing us to succumb to the will of the aggressors, so that the covetous ones would be able to realize their aims in destroying the will of the Iraqis and the Iraqi independence. They would then, God forbid, destroy and dominate Iraq. However, their mean calculations disappeared under the feet of the brave Iraqi soldiers who fought like heroes with the spirit of the tenacious mujahidin of the early Islamic period and the great conquests. They transformed the present into a bright page in line with the successive links in the nation's great history.

On the Iranian side, we find a completely different situation. This arrogant, suspect regime, which used to cry loud and threaten the regimes in Iraq and the region with destruction and invasion and which called for toppling the region's governments, is now living in an atmosphere of defeat and frustration. It is living a life of doubt in its future and present. Thus, this regime is reaping what it sowed. It is facing the results of its grudges, evil ambitions, and suspect policies against Iraq and the states in the region. Four years of the Iranian regime's insistence on war and destruction and of its determination to export anarchy and crime to the states in the region have proved the failure of this regime's slogans and promises.

Today, The Iranian regime is frustrated. It is collapsing beneath its repeated defeats on the battlefields in front of the brave Iraqis. It is suffering from its failure in the fields of economy, politics, and other areas.

On the international level, this regime's isolation from the world is increasing. Some sides cooperate with it only to realize commercial gains and to further their own opportunistic designs. Those who cooperate with this regime cannot defend or morally justify their cooperation with it. Even its allies who have based their relations with it on their grudges and evil designs can no longer justify these relations. Those who had in the past been adhering to their relations with it are now trying to cover up these relations. This is taking place while the Iraqi position is being strengthened on both the Arab and international levels. Iraq's options and correct analyses over the past phase are being proved right.

Last year witnessed at least three occasions in which the ruling regime in Tehran isolated itself internationally. In view of its insistence on its errors and deviation, that regime had no other recourse but to use the methods of cheap blackmail at a time when Iraq's stands got all the support and understanding.

At the last Nonaligned Conference in New Delhi, the ruling regime in Tehran refused to respond to the movement's call for ending the war. On the other hand, the majority of the nonaligned member-states expressed their understanding of Iraq's stands and their confidence in the positive role which it is playing in the Nonaligned Movement. In the United Nations, the Security Council issued a resolution calling for the cessation of military operations in the Gulf region in order to reduce tension and avert impending dangers. The Iranian regime rejected that resolution and isolated itself from the will of the international community. At the Islamic foreign ministers meeting which was held in Dakha, the political committee approved a draft resolution calling for ending the war and welcoming Iraq's positive stands. The useless Tehran regime found no other way to face Islamic public opinion except through blackmail and the threat of boycott.

This behavior only shows that regime's isolation from the international community and also reflects the situation of bitter defeat which it has suffered in the battlefield before the brave Iraqi fighters. On the other hand, Iraq's stand reflects the victories which it has achieved in the battle of defending its sovereignty and correct political stands and principles.

The recent developments in the Gulf region have come to confirm the opinions that Iraq has stressed since the beginning of the Iranian aggression against it. Iraq used to say that Arab security is one and that the rancorous and ambitious regime in Tehran was not after Iraq alone, but all the Arab homeland, especially the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf. The Iranian regime began the aggression against Iraq because it is the strong barrier that blocks its greed. We have always said that Iraq's brave resistance to this aggression is a defense of the nation's principles and security and of the peninsula and the Gulf in particular.

Events have proven that the best means of confronting the ambitions of the evil regime in Tehran and its acts of sabotage is by strengthening the ties of Arab solidarity, adhering to the bases of collective Arab security, increasing assistance to Iraq by all means and without feeling of embarrassment, and strengthening joint Arab action against that evil regime, which insists on aggression and expansion despite all the defeats dealt it and all the lessons taught it by Iraq.

Brothers, the Arab Gulf region has witnessed in recent months a state of anxiety due to the Iranian regime's threats against the freedom of navigation in the Gulf. This stage of anxiety has spread to cover several international circles. Out of its sense of responsibility toward the security and stability of the Arab Gulf region, and also out of its respect for the legitimate interests of the countries which have commercial dealings with the Gulf countries, Iraq has cooperated with the constructive international efforts to find a balanced formula to put an end to the tension and dangers in this sensitive area while guaranteeing the natural legitimate rights of all the parties concerned. On this basis, Iraq welcomed UN Security Council Resolution 540 which was issued on 31 October 1983, and communicated its position to the secretary general of the United Nations and the chairman of the Security Council. Also, out of its sense of responsibility to the security and stability of the region, and out of its respect for international organizations, Iraq made it a point to give the United Nations and its secretary general, and all the states which exerted positive efforts, the opportunity to implement the aforementioned Security Council resolution.

Iraq did not escalate its military operations in the Arab Gulf region during this period. Our activities so far have been confined to limited military operations with conventional military means. As for the Iranian regime, it rejected UN Security Council Resolution 540, just as it rejected all previous resolutions and appeals by the council to end the fighting. The Iranian regime

continues its aggression against Iraq. It also continues to make statements threatening to continue the war, invade Iraqi territory, and destroy Iraqi economic targets. It also continues daily to shell Iraqi border towns and villages with artillery, which has led to the martyrdom of Iraqi civilians and the destruction of their houses, plantations, and properties.

The Iranian regime has made the continuation of the war its firm and established policy. It also announces officially and continuously that its objective is to exhaust Iraq's human and economic resources in order to achieve its expansionist designs in Iraq and the countries of the region.

As for Iraq, which since the beginning of the conflict has been closely adhering to international law and respecting international organizations, it has now fulfilled its moral and practical obligations toward the Security Council and the cause of security and stability in the region. After we have given ample opportunity for efforts to implement the UN Security Council resolutions, we must affirm our natural right to defend our basic interests and to deal suitable blows to the interests of the Iranian regime wherever they may be and with all the means in our possession.

Iraq will choose the appropriate circumstances to exercise its natural right in this respect. Naturally, any new attack by the Iranian regime on Iraqi civilian centers or any new military offensive on our Armed Forces which are defending our international border, will be an additional reason for us to carry out deterrent actions in order to punish that regime, which insists on war and destruction, threatens security and stability in the region, and ignores the resolutions of international organizations and the international community's desire to end the war and maintain peace, security, and stability in the region.

On this occasion, we stress our previous warnings about considering certain areas in the Arab Gulf as exclusive military operations zones. We hope that the parties concerned will take these warnings into consideration when they dispatch their ships to the area. Iraq will not be responsible for any losses which may be sustained by those parties which ignore these warnings.

Glorious Iraqis, sons of the glorious Arab nation, we have said since the beginning of the Iranian regime's aggression on our country that the ruling regime in Tehran is primarily based on evil, expansion, and aggression. Despite the policies of appeasement and courtesy which certain sides in this region and the world have pursued with it, that regime has not changed its basic nature. It is a bloodthirsty regime, immersed in crime, and insistent on exporting anarchy and destruction.

Iraq has gone through its experiment with that criminal regime successfully. It was able with God's help and the willpower of its brave sons to overcome the danger. In fact, Iraq was able at a very early time to expose all the charlatanism and deception which that regime used to cover its mean plans. Iraq has triumphed in its ideological, political, and military battle against that abnormal regime, which has falsely claimed to be Islamic and which was brought to power in Iran by suspect international political trends and by Zionist circles, which share its evil, mean, expansionist, and aggressive characteristics.

The Iraqi have every right to be proud of what they have achieved in their resistance to that regime. The Iraqis have excelled in defending their territory, sovereignty, honor, and the achievements of their gigantic revolution. More than that, the Iraqis have proven that they are farsighted and stand solidly by their principles. They have every right to be proud of this. And, after several years of great struggle regarding politics and principles, and struggle on the battlefields, our Arab brothers and the honest, objective people in the world, now see the importance of the Iraqi stand and great achievement and Iraq's historic impact on regional and international conditions.

This, my brothers, explains the change in positions of some international sides on our region's situation and toward the Iranian regime. Iraq has established itself in the region and on the international level through its correct stand, its firm principles of independence, and the immense Iraqi sacrifices in all fields.

Despite the war circumstances and the great sacrifices, we feel confident in our present and future. We are confident that our brave, creative Iraq, which has offered great sacrifices, will continue its triumphant march and will affirm its place in Arab life and on the world scene. Our people are brave, free, and generous. They are determined to face challenges and offer sacrifices. They will force the world to respect them and deal with them on the basis of equality and joint interests.

Iraq's continuous affirmation of its independence, its concern over the Arab nation's independence and the nonaligned principles, its emphasis on equitable relations among states, and its sacrifices and determination to adhere to these principles despite all the difficulties it has been facing and despite the irresistable currents in international politics, have yielded their fruits. Iraq will reap more fruits in the fields of pan-Arab action. Let the Iranian rulers, who are immersed in their tyranny and evil illusions, know that their continuation of the game of war and destruction, which has cost them too much, will cost them much more. The steadfast, brave Iraqis, who taught the aggressors lessons in bravery and the art of war and who have defeated all the enemy offensives in 1983 in the Maysan sector, in the central sector, in the northern sector, on the hills and plains, in the Arab Gulf waters, and in the air are today more capable and better experienced in choosing targets and in dealing blows to the covetous aggressors.

I still recall the Iranian rulers illusions about what they called more than a year ago the war of attrition. These suspect, ignorent men thought that by their cooperation with their Arab allies, who are Arab only in name, they would be able to exhaust Iraq's economic resources and realize their evil designs after they had been utterly defeated in the second half of 1982 and in the first half of 1983.

Today, 1 year after, we hear them repeat these illusions. We stand stronger and more determined in the economic, military, and political fields. The Iraqis' success on the battlefield is not only a technical operation. It is a result of the overall national effort in all fields. It is the result of the great construction which the 17-30 July revolution has been raising over the past 15 years. It is the result of the Iraqi people's efforts in the fields of industry,

agriculture, trade, construction, and education, and in all other fields of life.

A comparison of the Iraqi and Iranian positions in all these fields will affirm Iraq's ability to remain steadfast until a clear victory is realized and a just, honorable peace is established, God willing.

Brothers, glorious Iraqis. The principles for which we called and the basic guidelines which we stressed in dealing with pan-Arab affairs are now being vindicated. The deviationist disputes against which we warned and which was manifested over the past few years by the alliance with the Iranian regime against Iraq, have not stopped at this point. The deviationist disputes extended to threaten the entire Arab situation. We warned of the consequences of alliances between Arab and foreigners against the Arabs. We warned against using Arab weapons against the Arabs. We also warned against the entry of Arab armies into territories of other Arab countries. This took place before the war. Now we see these deviationist practices reaching very serious proportions.

Wounded Lebanon is now exposed to the dangers of partition more than at any other time among those who are called brothers, the Zionist enemy, and international ambitions. Arab solidarity is also exposed to a most serious state of weakness and division due to the indulgence of certain Arab sides in the course of blackmail, threats, and nonadherence to the bases of this solidarity and the collective resolutions of Arab organizations.

In the course of these deviationist policies, the PLO has been exposed to the most dangerous plot since its establishment. It has been exposed to the plot of usurping its political willpower. It has also been exposed in broad daylight to an attempt at physical liquidation. Palestinian fighters, women, and children were attacked in camps with Arab guns which, regrettably, were not so active in facing the Zionist invaders when they overran the Golan and Lebanon.

Acquiescence on such deviationist policies in the past encouraged their advocates to continue with them. The continuation of this acquiescence will drag the Arab nation to new dangers of deterioration. The practical, principled stand is to expose and resist these policies, insisting on Arab solidarity and adheringto formulas of collective Arab action, safeguarding Arab sovereignty and security and ensuring the minimum level of Arab steadfastness. We must courageously resist those mean plots which the deviationists are trying to carry out through false slogans and claims. Have we forgotten that when the Tehran rulers tried to invade Basra and destroy Iraq, they falsely raised the slogans of liberate Jerusalem? Yet, they fought with weapons from Israel and other circles hostile to the nation and the cause of Palestine.

A brave stand against charlatanism and charlatans is what is required at this stage. Without that, the forgers and charlatans would be given the chance to carry out their suspect plans to make our national issues a commodity in the market of international wagers.

The Arab nation is called upon to give moral and material support to the Palestinian Arab people so they can strengthen their unity and solidarity around the PLO and its legitimate leaderships. When Palestinian legitimacy is threatened by blackmail, forgery, and force nobody will be spared the evil of these methods in the future.

Brave fighters, heroes of the great Iraqi Army, fighters in the popular army and internal security forces: On this day, the day of your glorious Army, I extend greetings to you as distinguished men. You are indeed distinguished men. In 40 months of fighting, which is the longest battle fought by any modern regular army since World War II, you were the epitome of courage, sacrifice, and patience. You also distinguished yourselves by one characteristic greatly contributing to your success in repulsing the enemy's attacks and destroying its evil dreams, namely, you benefit from lessons and experiences, improving methods and training.

Our Army today is not just a brave and courageous Army ready to make sacrifices, but an experienced, powerful, rejuvenating, and developing Army. Although we lost many brave men in the battlefield who set a great example for leadership when they led the ranks and commanded their soldiers as their great grandfathers did in the battle of [Islamic] conquests, our Army today, praise be to God, possesses an elite of brave and competent commanders, which guarantees for us the abilities of rejuvenation and development and also guarantees for the nation a powerful asset to ensure their freedom, sovereignty, and security. Our Army today also possesses weapons, ammunitions, and equipment which makes it a modern and developing Army which can select its targets and inflict painful blows on the greedy enemy.

The past year — between the 62d and 63d anniversaries of our brave army — was a distinguished year in our battles with the mean enemy. Our battles, thanks be to God, were characterized by more efficiency and capability to settle the situation rapidly, in a manner that astonished the enemies and made their black dreams fade away.

Greetings to all of you, brave, capable, and sincere fighters in all Army corps and formations, ground, air, and sea, where you are adding a new page to the bright history filled with courage and capability and causing the arrogant enemy to taste the bitterness of defeat and loss. We extend to you our greetings and those of all Iraqis, who wait for more heroism that forces the enemy to abandon its illusions and sick imaginations.

This has been a year filled with glory and sweetness of victory — the year in which the epics of Ash-Shid, At-Tib, Al-Fakkah, and Panjwin and the battles of Zurbatiyah, Haj 'Umran, and Qal'at Dizah took place. It was the year in which you once aqain proved to the whole world that our withdrawal from the enemy's territories was a political decision by the leadership. When we needed new proof of the reasons we had explained, you stormed the enemy positions at Mihran basin once aqain and reminded the enemy of the heroic battles of September and October 1980. At the orders of the command, you returned to your fortified positions. Furthermore, when the enemy imagined that it could do in the mountain areas what it could not do in the plains and hills, you taught it what fighting there was like. You inflicted heavy losses on the enemy — losses that are unmatched in mountain battles in the history of war. We still proudly remember that

great epic which took place on the eve of 19-20 November when you crushed the treacherous enemy's offensive in 10 hours. You destroyed 11 divisions that the enemy had massed, planning to achieve big results. The offensive was aborted and the enemy retreated suffering great defeat. Due to the great losses the enemy sustained during this offensive, it remained completely silent, at a time when it was well known for its boasting and false claims.

I greet you, O Iraqi fighters — commanders and soldiers one by one — from the highest summit in our lofty mountains to the last position in our steadfast southern border, and wherever you are present. By God, you deserve all the love, appreciation, and admiration from your fathers, mothers, wives, brothers, sisters, and sons who are proud of you and your glorious acts. More important than this is that you deserve the appreciation of history, which will record your heroism in bright letters that will never fade out and will make you an example for the coming generations. This record will be the torch for those who are proceeding toward pride and glory.

You have defended Iraq and kept its flag high. You have also ensured a bright present and a better future for yourselves and your kinfolk. The greatness of your performance will yield confidence, optimism, and abundance in every part of Iraq, at a time when despair, frustration, backwardness, and hallucinationswill prevail among the suspect and mean enemy.

A special greeting to those who are more generous than any of us — the dear martyrs— Iraq's fluttering banners and the builders of its current glory. You are always in our hearts and conscience. The lofty tomb of the unknown soldier that stands on the great ground of Baghdad is part of our love for you, appreciation for your sacrifices, and token of memories that the Iraqis will never forget.

0 glorious Iraqi men and women, I greet you wholehartedly — greetings of love, appreciation, and admiration — since you are the people who deserve glory, happiness, and benevolence. May God look after you as long as you satisfy and obey Him, history, and principles through your good and sublime acts. May God the Almighty grant you victory and fulfill your benevolent wishes for peace, progress, dignity, happiness, and pride. May God's peace, mercy, and blessing be unto you.

Iraqis Born in 1966 Called for Military Service

JN082055 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] The following communique has been issued by the general directorate of mobilization:

First, the general directorate of mobilization calls on all those who are drafted for military service and were born in 1966 to report to their mobilization centers between 1 May 1984 - 30 November 1984 for medical examinations and to receive pamphlets of military service.

Second, those who are meant by the aforementioned communique should bring the following documents and certificates with them when reporting to their mobilization centers:

1. A school certificate if he is still a student.

2. Identity card issued under 1957 law.

3. Iraqi citizenship certificate.

4. A document showing the draftee's occupation.

5. Four pictures.

Third, those who report after the abovementioned date will be considered as absentees, and the provisions of the amended military service law No 65 for 1969 will be applied to them.

[Signed] The staff major general, the general director of mobilization.

Parliament Approves Constitutional Amendment

JN091029 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Amman — In its first extraordinary session today, the House of Representatives approved by a majority of 43 votes the amendment of Article 73 of the Constitution as submitted by the government. There were 2 abstentions.

The House of Representatives held its first session at 1005 today in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the ministers. The session was opened by Speaker Kamil 'Urayqat, who expressed his pleasure and that of the representatives on the return of parliamentary life to Jordan. The royal decree calling on Parliament to convene for an extraordinary session and the Council of Ministers' decision regarding the amendment of Article 73 of the Constitution were then read out.

At 1100 today, the Senate, under its president Ahmad at-Tarawinah, approved the amendment to Article 73 of the Constitution. The session was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the ministers.

Proposed Amendment Published

JN081212 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Jan 84 pp 1, 18

[Text] Amman — *AR-RA'Y* — Yesterday, the prime minister deferred to Parliament the amendments to Article 73 of the Constitution and the causes of this amendment. *AR-RA'Y* has learned that the amendment deals with the problem concerning areas where it is not possible to hold elections. It says that representatives from such areas will be appointed rather than elected. It also deals with the period of time that elapses between the dissolution of the House of Representatives or the ending of its term and the holding of new elections. The following is the text of the amendment:

Causes for the amendment:

1. Parliamentary life has been one of the salient civilized feature of Jordan since it was an amirate. This parliamentary life developed from the level of the legislative councils until it reached the level of general elections for a bicameral legislature.

2. Despite the unjust 1967 aggression which led to the fall of the West Bank under occupation, the Kingdom has been able to find various formulas for democratic life where the people could be consulted and could take part in policymaking. Most prominent among these formulas is the National Consultative Council, although it is not an alternative to parliamentary life in the full sense of the term.

3. Today, after a long period has elapsed since the occupation began, it is only logical for the country to restore its sound, democratic nature and regain its parliamentary life, which is the symbol of its existence, especially since the circumstances which stopped this democratic life still exist; and the end of these circumstances does not depend on Jordan alone.

4. In order for the Kingdom not to lose its democratic nature and trends, in order for it to practice the democratic life which suits the nature of its proud people, and in order for the previous Parliament not to lose the quorum necessary for it to convene, it was found necessary to amend the Constitution as follows:

Constitutional Amendment for 1984:

Article 73 of the Constitution will be amended as follows:

1. Canceling Paragraph 5 and replacing it with the following:

5. If the unavoidable circumstances stipulated in Paragraph 4 of this article persist, the king, upon recommendation of the Council of Ministers, can recall the dissolved Parliament. This Parliament will exist from the moment a royal decree to recall it is issued. It will carry out its duties according to the Constitution and will be liable to the provisions of the Constitution including those concerning its term and its dissolution. Its session in this case will therefore be considered to be its first ordinary session regardless of the date on which it is held.

2. Adding the following Paragraph 6 to the article:

6. If the Council of Ministers finds that it is possible to hold general elections in at least half of the electroral districts despite the unavoidable circumstances referred to above, the king will order these general elections to take place in these districts. The elected members from these districts will elect not more than half of the members from the districts where elections could not be held. In that case, three-quarters of the elected members should meet and a two-thirds majority should be adhered to during the election of the rest of the members in accordance with the rules and provisions of Article 88 of the Constitution. The elected members and those who are elected by the members in accordance with this paragrpah will elect the rest of the members in these districts in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph.

All W. Bank Representatives Present

JN090950 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Amman, *AD-DUSTUR* — Dr Hafiz 'Abd an-Nabi, the Hebron representative, arrived in Amman yesterday to attend today's parliament session. Thus, all the West Bank House of Representatives members, totaling 24 [as published], have arrived in Amman. There are 22 East Bank representatives. The quorum is considered complete when 40 representatives are present for a session.

'Official Source' on Changes

JN070842 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Jan 84 pp 1, 24

[Text] Amman — A ranking official Jordanian source has explained that reconvening the Jordanian Parliament has nothing to do with the legitimacy of the Palestinian representation. The goal is to amend the Constitution in such a manner as to allow the resumption of parliamentary elections only in the five governorates of the East Bank.

In an exclusive statement to *AR-RA'Y*, the source said that the Parliament will reconvene here after tomorrow, Monday, and will revise Article 73 of the Constitution to permit general elections to be held in the East Bank, thereby getting around the present constitutional requirement stipulating elections to choose 60 members to Parliament from the East and West Bank Governorates at the same time. The source added that such a move would allow parliamentary life to resume in the East Bank while maintaining Jordan's legal links with the West Bank and its technical responsibility for it in the eyes of international law.

The source said: We cannot simply rewrite the Constitution to hold elections in the East Bank and forget about our responsibility toward the West Bank because that would imply that Jordan has forefeited its legal responsibility to the West Bank. This would create a legal vacuum into which Israel would quickly move.

The source explained that Jordan needs to initiate these constitutional amendments while there is still a quorum of two- thirds of the elected Parliament. There are 46 members of this Parliament who are alive, and constitutional amendments need to be made while this number still constitutes a quorum. By this, a constitutional crisis would be avoided, a crisis which would take place should the number of the members of Parliament fall below 40.

The source added that the extraordinary session of Parliament will amend the Constitution to permit elections to be held in the East Bank only. This is expected to be followed in the foreseeable future, perhaps within the coming year, by regular general elections for members of Parliament in the East Bank, which is represented by 30 of the 60 members of Parliament.

The source also explained that the reconvened Parliament could either appoint new representatives to fill the 14 vacant seats or hold by-elections in the East Bank to fill its eight empty seats. The old Parliament could either stay in power for a period of time or could be dissolved after amending the Constitution and open the way for general elections in the East Bank.

The source said: After general elections are held, the new members of Parliament could either appoint the 30 members who will represent the West Bank or adopt special arrangements for the representation of the West Bank, such as maintaining the present 22 representatives who represent the West Bank in the new Parliament. After elections are held in the East Bank, the reconvened Parliament, in consultation with the government, will discuss the delicate legal links concerning the representation of the West Bank in the Parliament.

In response to a question on whether the reconvening of Parliament will raise questions about the representation of the West Bank in the Jordanian Parliament and on the extent of of this measure contradicting the Arab summit conference which convened in Rabat — which recognized the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative — the source said: Normal parliamentary life in the East Bank cannot be suspended forever pending a settlement of the Palestinian cause. This move must not be misinterpreted as anything but a measure seeking to introduce constitutional amendments that will permit the resumption of political life in the East Bank, while the West Bank remains under occupation in spite of the fact that it is legally linked to the East Bank in accordance with international law. This is a means to hold elections in the East Bank without officially giving up Jordanian ties with the West Bank.

The source added that this move has nothing to do with the representation of the Palestinians in the West Bank. It is purely a development concerning the East Bank and indicates that we in Jordan feel that it is not realistic to expect our political development to be frozen forever as a result of a lack of progress toward the settlement of the Palestinian cause.

Information Minister's Remarks

JN070943 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah has said that the call for the Jordanian House of Representatives to meet confirms and does not affect the legal status of the West Bank. In other words, the West Bank will remain legally connected with Jordan.

In a statement to Jordanian radio yesterday, Abu 'Awdah said that the main reason behind the delay in elections in the East Bank was not to affect the legal status of the West Bank, in that earlier elections would have shown the West Bank to be a territory without legal status. Consequently, Israel would have utilized this situation to establish its own legal status.

The information minister asserted that Jordan still adheres to the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people. He said that recalling the Parliament and implementing the proposed amendment of the Constitution aims at preventing any situation that may be used by the occupation authorities to establish a new legal status that would serve its interest. Abu 'Awdah noted that recalling the Parliament and the restoration of the parliamentary life will not affect the firm political stands and principles adopted by Jordan.

Abu 'Awdah added that the proposed amendment to the Constitution will guarantee the legal status of the West Bank in such a way that Israel cannot exploit it. He added that the amendment will restore parliamentary life to the West Bank and revive a part of the constitutional state of affairs in the Kingdom which were formally frozen due to the non-existence of an elected parliament.

The information minister said that regarding the political situation, nothing is new. The Jordanian political stand toward the West Bank and the Palestine cause are part of Jordan's firm principles regarding its recognition of the PLO, its efforts, calls, and demands for the Palestinian people's self-determination, and the fact that this relationship will not affect the national rights of the Palestinian people in the future, as stated in a resolution adopted by the joint Jordanian Parliament in 1950. This resolution stipulated that the [Jordanian-Palestinian] unity, at the time, would not, under any circumstances, affect Palestinian rights in the future.

Husayn Speech, Cabinet Change Expected

JN070806 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jan 84 p 1

[Excerpt] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* has learned that the Parliament will hold an ordinary session next Wednesday or Thursday, after holding its extraordinary session of the day after tomorrow, Monday, during which it will discuss the amendment of Article 73 of the Constitution as stipulated by the royal decree issued on Thursday 4 January 1984.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B also learned that His Majesty King Husayn will open the ordinary session of the Parliament and will deliver a speech during the opening.

In accordance with tradition, *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* expects a cabinet change during the next few days if Parliament is invited to hold an ordinary session after its extraordinary session on Monday. Therefore, this week will witness intensive political activity at all levels.

In another development, the Parliament Secretariat General is preparing the administrative arrangements for convening Parliament's extraordinary session next Monday.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B learned that the Parliament will only discuss what is stipulated in the royal decree — the amendment of Article 73 of the Constitution in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 3 of Article 82 of the Constitution.

Husayn To Speak 12 Jan

JN091103 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Jan 84 pp 1, 19

[Ahmad Shakir dispatch]

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn will address Parliament on Thursday during its ordinary session. The Parliament's General Secretariat has begun the necessary measures for this great event. The secretariat will invite more than 1,000 Jordanian figures, including former prime ministers, high-ranking civilians and military men, ulema and clergymen, under secretaries of ministeries, directors of departments, chairmen of boards of big companies, businessmen, and heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions. Jordan television will cary the king's address live.

Press Comment

JN060940 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0510 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "King Husayn's Step and the Return to Constitutional Democracy," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: With the issuing of the royal decree dissolving the National Consultative Council [NCC], which played its role in a transitional stage, and the royal guidance on the country's return to parliamentary democracy, as stipulated by the Constitution, Jordan has overcome a stage of emergency in its constitutional life in which occupation constituted an obstacle to parliamentary life on both banks. Under His Majesty King Husayn's guidance, the government's call on the former House of Representatives came to amend the Constitution in a way that will allow the resumption of parliamentary elections in the rest of the electoral districts in the Kingdom without affecting the West Bank from a legal viewpoint or affecting the legislative rights of the citizens there. This situation is a national trend that is dictated by the national interests and the demands for the return of constitutional democracy, which is considered a basic pillar in our life and a basic characteristic of our country's rule.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B continues: It is time we bypass the obstacle to our constitutional parliamentary life, which was caused by the emergency occupation situation, while we are more aware and determined to uphold our country's cohesion and establish it on a sound democratic basis. Our national experiences and tribulations, our insistence on a sound national participation, our citizens' vigilance, and our rallying around our country and its leadership are the forces that will help us intensify our national efforts to serve our country's objectives and commitments — foremost being the liberation of the occupied Palestinian territory and the gurantee of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: We believe that this step is a national need aimed at organizing responsibilities in our society. It is an inevitable return to the natural principles on which the experience of ruling in our country was establihsed. It is a return to the democratic principles stipulated in the Constitution which act as guarantees for both the citizen and the ruling authority.

The Parliament in our life has always been a source of legislation, a control of the rule, and a crucible for national interaction and participation in guiding the country's affairs. Our people's spirit, our citizens' ambitions, and our society's traditions were reflected in the Parliament, and our people's desires for freedom and independence, as well as our kinfolk's aspirations in both banks for cohesion and unity stemmed from the Parliament.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: The Parliament has always been the school from which an elite of this country graduated and participated in the experience of governing and working in our country. Our country's return to parliamentary life and to the constitutional democratic spirit is a step that reflects King Husayn's concern about strengthening the spirit of democratic participation in our country and about spreading and deepening the national responsibility of the citizens so that every citizen will have a share in this responsibility. This step reflects confidence in our country and citizens as well as in their ability to overcome difficulties and to keep pace with developments with national vigilance and cohesion that are reflected in our institutions, life, and aspirations.

Under the headline "A Blessed Step at the Right Time," *AD-DUSTUR* says: Words cannot express the joy of the Jordanian people over the great news announced yesterday: the return of complete constitutional life to the country as represented in the return of the elected Jordanian Parliament to exercise its authority in establishing the principles of democracy and asserting the authority of the people. The Jordanians, who recall King Husayn's beneficient hands, will always remember his lofty and

honest stand in which he kept his promise by restoring constitutional life to the country.

AD-DUSTUR says: His Majesty King Husayn's message to the NCC speaker asserts his majesty's respect for the Constitution, which dictates the resotration of parliamentary life. His majesty also asserted that every citizen in this country has a share in the responsibility and fidelity and that every citizen must contribute to the service of the country and its issues, especially in a situation which requires such essential and decisive resolutions.

The return of parliamentary life to Jordan means straightening things out. If the situation in the region and the Arab world made Jordan obstruct parliamentary life for a period, Jordan's role and destiny in confronting the brutal onslaught against the Palestinian rights prompted King Husayn to restore matters to the situation which existed 9 years ago.

AD-DUSTUR continues: The return to parliamentary life, which is a real expression of the Jordanian and Palestinian people's unity and of the need to combine efforts in order to continue the march and confront the requirements of the coming stage, is a basic step on the path of joint struggle and an assertion of the common objective and destiny.

The dangers of the coming stage require the return of the Parliament to the people so they can deal with the problems that face Jordan and the Palestine cause. This concept asserts the unity of the Jrodanian and Palestinian people and the need for the sons of the one people in both banks to continue to adopt resolutions that are connected to both the present and future. Furthermore, the return of government to the people embodies His Majesty King Husayn's concern to deepen and maintain the meaning of democracy, which is a genuine characteristic of popular participation in sharing the responsibilities.

As we stand at the threshold of the restoration of parliamentary life, we must thank and appreciate all citizens who contributed to the NCC experiment in its three successive sessions, and we must also praise the efforts they exerted and the positive role they played in legislation, reformulating the laws, designing the development plans, and discussing various issues with a spirit of honesty, affiliation to the homeland, and faithfulness to Jordan's pan-Arab mission.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: We hope the return of the elected Parliament will achieve the aspirations which aim at entrenching democratic practices and at removing difficulties, defiances, and conspiracies against our people on both banks.

Under the headline "The NCC Era," *AR-RA'Y* says: Through-out the successive stages, parliamentary life in our country has been one of the most important democratic practices — during the times when it existed — and also a basic objective when it was absent from the arena, especially in regard to cohesive causes, most dangerous of which was the Israeli occupation of the West Bank. In order to prevent the establishment of a vacuum caused by the occupation, and in order to achieve a kind of participation in the responsibility between the government and the people, the NCC was formed and held its first session on 20 April 1978. The NCC was reformed in its second and third sessions to open the doors to participation by various functionaries. A royal decree has now been issued dissolving it as of 8 January 1984.

AR-RA'Y continues: We must record that the council, which was one of the most important institutions in the state through an era that extended about 6 years, was the first to call for the return to parliamentary life, asserting that it is not a substitute. Through its practices and stands, the council was concerned about strengthening democracy and cooperation between the government and the people, because every citizen is responsible, whatever his position. Through this era, which was full of work and interaction, the NCC was able to establish participation in bearing the responsibility and provided opportunities for various opinions, listening to them and discussing them with respect.

AR-RA'Y asserts that it is certain that a new era will begin next Monday, an era in which parliamentary life will return to Jordan, an era that will be full of political, national, and historical concepts — foremost being strengthened ties within our one community. These ties have always been the distinguishing chatacteristic of this community and the basic source of its cohesion and ability to face defiance in all environments and stages.

AR-RA'Y concludes: As in all environments and stages, our community has expressed, through its honest practices, its rallying around this homeland's leader, its faith in the gracious march he leads, and its shouldering of the responsibility with firmness. And as this community receives the return of parliamentary life, it renews to King Husayn its genuine commitment to the principles and higher ideals he established. These principles and ideas are represented in strong national cohesion, positive participation in assuming our duty, and the march toward a good life with confident steps enlightened by the national and pan-Arab torch raised by the homeland's leader.

AR-RA'Y on Palestinian Reaction

JN080956 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Palestinian Response," *AR-RA'Y* says: During the meeting between Abu 'Ammar and Jordanian journalists in Tunis, the Palestinian leader expressed his understanding of the constitutional motives behind the recall of the Jordanian Parliament. The Palestinian leader also asserted that the PLO-Jordanian dialogue has not been suspended and that the dialogue will be resumed when he visits Jordan as soon as he completes the necessary affairs of those fighters and their families who were evacuated from Tripoli.

'Arafat's remarks were the Palestinian response to those who mourned the PLO and gave free rein to their incorrect interpretations. This response indicates that efforts being exerted to crystallize Jordanian-Palestinian joint action have not been suspended and that they will continue. Undoubtedly this clarification puts an end to the belief that it is time to undermine

the relationship between the PLO and Jordan in order to fish in troubled waters.

Nobody can disregard the great responsibility the PLO's legitimate leadership shoulders in arranging the Palestinian community. We remind all that those interested in arranging the Palestinian community to support the Palestinian leadership, so that this mission will be completed as soon as possible and consequently the Palestinian leadership will work for the crystallization of joint Jordanian-Palestinian action as the crux of any Arab effort aimed at giving the Palestine cause momentum toward a just and comprehensive solution.

AR-RAY concludes: At the same time, we remind all that the crystallization of Jordanian-Palestinian action will create more opportunities on the international level to save the cause from becoming frozen and from turning into a secondary issue. It is obvious that the time factor is very important. The time factor is Israel's weapon in confiscating the usurped territory and in imposing a new reality, whereby discussion of the cause will be useless. Jordan has always reminded us of the importance of the time factor which must be taken into consideration in crystallizing joint Jordanian-Palestinian action and in confronting the escalated Zionist challenges.

Royal Decree on Ambassadors' Resignation
JN061146 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AD-DUSTUR* — A royal decree has been issued accepting the resignation of Tahir al-Masri, Jordanian ambassador in London, and Muhyi ad-Din al-Husayni, Jordanian ambassador to Morocco, on the occasion of the restoration of Parliament. The two ambassadors are members in the House of Representatives.

King, Queen Receive Congressional Delegation
JN080823 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Amman — Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur received at An-Nadwah Palace yesterday the U.S. congressional delegation headed by Matthew McHugh, member of the congressional Foreign Relations Committee. During the meeting, his majesty the king reviewed the current developments in the Middle East and the Jordanian positions on these developments. His majesty explained the principles of Arab trends toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. His majesty also reviewed the current situation in the occupied Arab territories and the Israeli settlements policy aimed at seizing our kinfolk's land there and at changing the features of this land.

Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Marwan al-Qasim, minister of foreign affairs; and the U.S. ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Army Chief Receives Delegation
JN081305 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Amman — Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today received the U.S. congressional delegation headed by Matthew McHugh, member of the congressional Foreign Relations Committee.

Attending the meeting were the inspector general of the Armed Forces, a number of the chief of staff's assistants, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

More on Security Plan Implementation, Reaction

Implementation Preparations Begin

NC061417 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] While preparations are underway to begin implementing the comprehensive security plan, which was officially announced by President al-Jumayyil a short while ago [as heard], the military situation again deteriorated in the Al-Kharrub region and on some of the mountain axes. The Phalangist militias began violent shelling of Barja, B'asir, Al-Wardaniyah, and Siblin at 1450 today from their positions in Dahr al-Magharah, Al-Jiyah, Harat B'asir, Dayr Al-Mukhallis, Al-Mukhallis, Al-Mushrif, Al-Jumayliyah, 'Alman, Ar-Rumaylah, Wadi az-Zayni, and [word indistinct] with artillery and rockets.

Our correspondent in the Al-Kharrub region affirmed that the clashes were still going on fiercely at the time this news bulletin was being prepared. The patriotic forces and residents are returning the fire. Our correspondent pointed out that several casualties and very serious material damage were caused as a result of the exchange of artillery and rocket fire.

Some tension has also been reported on the other mountain axes. At 1300 today, several shells fell in the Khaldah area. One destroyed an olive color Mercedes, wounding all its passengers.

Meanwhile, preparations are underway to implement the security plan. It has been reported that an Army force is currently preparing to move toward the north. Another Army force has completed its preparations at the anti-aircraft barracks, near the Kuwaiti Embassy, and in other barracks in West Beirut in order to proceed to the coastal road up to the Al-Awwali River. An Internal Security Force has also completed its preparations to proceed to the Al-Kharrub region as the first step in the implementation of the comprehensive security plan.

It has been noticed today that the Lebanese Army has withdrawn from various axes of the southern suburb within the framework of the security steps which have actually begun on the ground. Unofficial information affirmed that the security plan will be announced today. However, the contacts have not been completed until now, and if agreement is reached on all aspects, President al-Jumayyil will personally announce the plan.

PSP on Cease-fire Breaches

NC062030 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Security sources report that uneasy calm prevails on the various fighting axes following the numerous setbacks witnessed by those axes today, especially in the Al-Kharrub region. During its meeting, the Security Arrangements Committee discussed the general situation and exchanged views on the latest developments pertaining to the completion of the contacts for the announcement and implementation of the security plan.

This evening, a Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] spokesman made a statement in which he denied his party's responsibility for the violation of the cease-fire decided in Damascus on 16 December 1983, especially in the Al-Kharrub region.

The PSP spokesman affirmed that the party has abided by the agreement to create an easy and reassuring atmosphere which will open the way for a return to political dialogue. The statement also said that the party responded positively to the efforts to consolidate the cease-fire and achieve agreement on the security plan.

Birri, Al-Hariri Return from Damascus

NC072022 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Amal movement leader Nabih Birri and Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut this evening from Damascus where they held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, also took part in these talks. The talks dealt with the proposed security plan.

Birri Calls for More Talks

OW080056 Hong Kong AFP in English 0039 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Beirut, Jan 8 (AFP) — Nabih Birri, head of the Amal Shi'ite Muslim militia, returned here Saturday night from talks in Damascus on a new security plan for Beirut and called for a further meeting there by "all parties concerned."

What was scheduled as a key two-day military meeting was marred by the failure of delegates from the Lebanese Army and Lebanese Front, a coalition of conservative Christian parties, to attend. "The ball is now in the Lebanese state's court," Mr Birri told journalists here.

The participants in Damascus — in addition to Mr Birri, Druze leader Walid Junblatt, Saudi Arabian mediator Rafiq Al-Hariri, and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam — had worked out a final version of the plan despite the absence of the Army and Lebanese Front, the Amal leader said. They wanted it ratified and put immediately into effect. The scheme, which all Lebanese factions had agreed to in principle following three months of talks, had only been changedby the addition of a clause on Army officers' promotions, he said.

Informed sources in the Lebanese capital said Mr Junblatt had agreed in Damascus to the Lebanese Army moving into Dubbiyah, a Christian region of Iklim Al-Kharrub in the Ash-Shuf Mountains approximately 20 kms (13 miles) south of Beirut.

Meanwhile Beirut, the surrounding mountains, and Iklim al-Kharrub were reported calm after a ceasefire went into effect at 7:00 P.M. (1700 GMT).

Fierce fighting broke out earlier between the Army and anti-government forces in the Suq Al-Gharb area, in the mountains southeast of Beirut. Druze and Christian militia also clashed in the region of Iklim al-Kharrub.

Birri on Plan Formula

NC080644 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri returned to Beirut last night. Al-Hariri left for Riyadh last night after briefing Lebanese officials on the outcome of the Damascus talks. He said he will return to Beirut next week to continue his efforts in light of any new developments. Birri said a final formula for the security plan was drafted during the Damascus meetings. The formula, Birri added, is not different from the old plan. The formula is ready for implementation and is acceptable to the National Salvation Front and Amal Movement. Birri further added that Al-Hariri has the original copy of the formula and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam also has a copy. Birri said: We are prepared to send delegates to the disengagement committee [lajnat fakk al-ishtibakat] and begin the implementation immediately.

Al-Murabitun on Security Plan

NC090810 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpts] The Higher Central Political Committee of the Independent Nasirite Movement Al-Murabitun has held its periodic meeting and discussed the political, security, and social situation as well as the proposed security plan. The committee has issued a statement in which it affirms that the security plan, if implemented, will constitute a framework for a program that will provide security for our people. The plan will not be a factor for delaying or suspending the fighting and Jihad operations against the common Zionist-U.S. enemy by various means and options. The committee stresses that the proposed security plan must not contradict the substance and principles of the future formula for participation in the administration of the homeland.

On the Israeli raid on Ba'labakk and Al-Biqa', the committee affirms that the attacks are part of the historical, cultural, and religious struggle by Zionist and U.S. racism against the Arab nation and Islamic world within the framework and under cover of the Multinational Force for protecting the Israeli entity. The committee views the Multinational Force's role as confined to providing ground cover for the Zionist air attacks. The committee says that should the Multinational Force continue its task, then this can only be defined as constituting a NATO military force. The committee urges the Palestinian strugglers and leaders wherever they may be to outline the strategy and goals of the Palestinian struggle within the framework of upholding their resistance against the enemy along any front they may be, particularly the resistance in the south.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Saudi Arabia

NC080738 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0726 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim has just left Beirut Airport for Riyadh to participate in a conference there along with the Syrian and Saudi foreign ministers.

Hopes for 'Good' Results

NC080937 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0919 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Prior to his departure for Riyadh this morning, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim expressed the hope that the meeting of the Lebanese, Syrian, and Saudi Arabian foreign ministers would yield good results. He declined to give further details on the topic, adding that he would wait until the end of the conference. Minister Salim is due back in Beirut tomorrow.

Reportage on U.S. Congressional Delegation Visit

Senators Meet With Salim

NC071056 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim met this morning with U.S. Senator John Tower, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, who was accompanied by Senator Warner. The discussions dealt with the situation in Lebanon and the area, and the impressions Senator Tower obtained during his tour of some other countries of the region. The two U.S. officials will also visit with [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam.

Delegation Meets Al-Jumayyil

NC071222 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Excerpts] President Amin al-Jumayyil this afternoon received Senator John Tower, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Senator Warner at B'abda Palace in the presence of Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew.

The U.S. delegation then called on [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam at his home in Al-Musaytibah.

Senators' Activities Reported

NC071848 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Two delegations from the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate are currently visiting Lebanon. The Senate delegation, led by Senator John Tower, today held several meetings in Beirut with Lebanese officials and politicians. Senator Tower, accompanied by Senator John Warner and U.S. Ambassador Reginald Barthlolomew, was received by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil shortly after midday today.

The Lebanese-U.S. talks, which took place in the presence of Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, focused on the presence of the U.S. Marines in Lebanon in light of the prevailing atmosphere in the United States. In this regard, Senator Tower raised a number of questions and inquired on issues being raised in the United States.

President al-Jumayyil and Minister Salim informed him on these matters. The Lebanese side explained the importance of the

presence of the U.S. force in Lebanon and the political significance of this presence, pointing out that the moderate Arab states view the U.S. policy in lebanon as an indication of its Middle East policy in the coming years. The same applies to the Arab Maghreb states and even the African states.

Senator Tower met earlier with Foreign Minister Salim for 1 hour.

Senators Tower and Warner also called on Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri. Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus and Colonel Emil Lahhud, head of the Military Bureau in the Defense Ministry, also attended the meeting.

After the meeting, Minister Khuri said the U.S. side acquainted itself with the views of the Lebanese side and its plans for completing the rebuilding of the Army.

He added: I affirmed to the delegation our firm conviction regarding our primary responsibility to maintain our security and impose the state sovereignty over all Lebanese territory. I also pointed out the value of continued cooperation between the Army and the Multinational Force to maintain security until the Army completes its rebuilding.

Minister Khuri also said: I stressed the fact that while the primary task of the Lebanese Army is to defend Lebanese territory and its people, the fact remains that Lebanon is the last bastion of democracy in the area.

When the Lebanese soldier dies, he dies for his country and for the sublime principles and values in which Lebanon believes and which it is defending along with all the countries of the free world.

Senator Tower also met with Deputy Joseph Skaf, head of the Zahlah and western Al-Biqa' deputies bloc, in the house of the U.S. ambassador. Deputy Skaf said after the meeting that Senator Tower informed him that the United States is extremely interested in ending the Lebanese crisis and is working to this end.

He added that he asked the U.S. senator to intensify the efforts to grant Lebanon additional military aid similar to that which the United States grants to Israel. Senator Tower promised to raise this issue before the Senate Arms Services Committee.

Importance Attached to Visit

NC071528 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Lebanese officials regard the visit of Senator John Tower, chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, to Lebanon as of special importance because the report he will submit to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will to a large extent determine the committee's position to President Reagan's policy in Lebanon.

Reportage on U.S. General Vessey's Visit

Meets Al-Jumayyil

NC081522 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil this afternnon received U.S. Army General Vessey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. A review was made of the current situation and the role of the U.S. peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

Meets Army Commander

NC081740 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] General Vessey, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, accompanied by General (Bellont) of the U.S. Army Staff, visited Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus this afternoon. The U.S. military attache; Staff Brigadier General 'Abbas Hamdan; chief of the U.S. working team; and a number of Army Command officers attended the meeting. During the visit, a review was made of the cooperation between the U.S. and Lebanese Armies in the fields of training and equipment.

The Army commander then accompanied General Vessey and his companions to an exercise with live ammunition at one of the training fields.

U.S. Marine Killed in Beirut 8 Jan

NC080933 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0919 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Larry Palmer, a spokesman for the U.S. Marines in Lebanon, said a U.S. soldier was killed this morning when unknown persons directed two RPG rockets at a U.S. helicopter, which had a number of Marines on board, as it was landing at the military swimming club. Initial reports said two Marines were wounded as a result of the incident. The spokesman said the U.S. forces returned the fire.

French Carrier 'Clemenceau' Sails for France

NC070638 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The French aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* has sailed away from Lebanese waters and will arrive at the Toulon naval base on Sunday. The carrier is scheduled to sail back to Lebanon on 25 January.

Government Note to UN Denounces Israeli Raids

NC061926 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Lebanon has submitted a note to the United Nations, denouncing the Israeli raids on Ba'labakk. The note says the raids are a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty. It adds that use of the

pretext of the existence of non-Lebanese positions does not justify third-party intervention.

The note, which was submitted by Lebanon's permanent UN representative, says Lebanon reaffirms its decision and demand regarding the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese and officially unsanctioned forces, and the need to impose state sovereignty over all Lebanese territory. The note concludes: We hope the necessary measures will be taken to prevent a reccurrence of such actions, which, if continued, will hamper the current efforts to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis and jeopardize peace in the area and the world.

The Lebanese representative asked that the note be circulated as an UN General Assembly and Security Council document.

Israelis Reportedly Terrorize Sidon City

NC071038 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The city of Sidon was terrorized this morning when an Israeli patrol, comprised of two Merkava tanks, entered the main Riyad as-Sulh Street, which runs through the center of the city, and opened indiscriminate machinegun fire to both the left and right, aiming in particular at vehicles parked on either side of the street.

Our correspondent in Sidon reports that fear gripped the citizens, pedestrians rushed to shelter, and shopkeepers quickly closed their shops. Approximately 20 vehicles were destroyed in An-Najmah Square alone and fire gutted others. A big fire broke out near the Lebanese Bank and Shahrazad movie house. This began at 0905 and lasted 35 minutes. The Israeli forces opened Riyad as-Sulh Street at 1030.

The reasons for this Israeli conduct were not immediately known, but some sources attributed this to the atmosphere of terror which the Israeli authorities are trying to create because of the resistance operations and attacks to which the Israeli forces are being subjected, particularly those of the past 2 weeks.

Jordanian Envoy Resigns, Kuwaiti Envoy Transfers

NC090958 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 4 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] The Jordanian Government has informed the Lebanese Foreign Ministry that Mu'tasim al-Balbisi, Jordanian ambassador to Lebanon, will not return to his post in Beirut due to his resignation from the Jordanian diplomatic corps.

The Kuwaiti Government has informed the Lebanese Foreign Ministry that 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan, Kuwaiti ambassador to Lebanon, will not return to his post due to reassignment to another diplomatic post which has not been disclosed.

The Kuwaiti and Jordanian ambassadors left Beirut in the middle of last year because of the security situation and did not return.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Ba'labakk

NC070654 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam has entered Lebanese territory via the Syrian border and made an inspection tour of the positions subjected to Israeli raids in the Ba'labakk area. He said he was confident that the Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims would retaliate for the acts of murder.

More on Inspection Tour

GF071120 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Brother Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, assistant foreign minister for political affairs, yesterday toured the city of Ba'labakk and the areas bombed by the Jerusalem-usurping entity.

During his inspection, Sheykh ol-Eslam affirmed Iran's decisive and complete support for the struggling masses in Lebanon and Palestine. Referring to the attacks which the Jerusalem-usurping entity has launched and the crimes that entity is committing in the West Bank of Jordan and Gaza Strip, and the full support the arrogant forces extend to that entity and the crimes by forces of Western intervention in Lebanon, he said: These attacks and crimes show those arrogant forces' fear of the comprehensive system which the free Muslims (?are seeking) in Lebanon and Palestine, the Zionist entity and criminal United States [sentence as heard] and are vital evidence of those forces' weakness in front of the firm and decisive will of the Muslim and conscious people in the region.

The assistant foreign minister for political affairs met in the "Awaited Imam" Mosque in the city of Ba'labakk with a group of Muslim clergy in Ba'labakk and the Lebanese area of Al-Biqa'. He addressed them, expressing Iran's support for the destitute Muslims in Lebanon. He affirmed that Iran will support (?struggling) Muslim peoples in Lebanon and Palestine until the end.

During his meeting with the press in the "Awaited Imam" Mosque, [words indistinct]. The Muslim people in (?Lebanon have been able to) deal a blow to Zionists and imperialists throughout Lebanon and the explosions which recently took place in the commands of Western intervention forces and the forces of the Jerusalem-usurping entity tell one truth — that the Muslim people in Lebanon will not let the Zionists' crimes of attacking Ba'labakk pass unpunished.

Referring to the Lebanese regime's severance of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Sheykh ol-Eslam said: After the severance of relations, we decided to summon Iranian diplomats to Iran. However, Lebanese Muslims prevented the (?departure) of Iranian diplomats from Beirut, a situation showing that the Lebanese regime's policy contradicts the Muslim Lebanese people's ambitions.

Army Denies Detention of Iranian Diplomat

NC081341 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] A source at the Protocol Directorate of the Foreign Ministry told the Voice of Lebanon that Iranian Charge d'Affaires Asghar Abshi did not comply when he was asked to hand in his diplomatic card to receive another card which would indicate his new capacity as official in charge of Iranian interests at the Algerian Embassy in Lebanon. However, he was detained for interrogation when he produced his diplomatic card which is no longer recognized because of the severance of diplomatic relations on 24 November. His release is expected to take place later.

A statement released by the Iranian Embassy said today that the Lebanese Army detained an Iranian diplomat named Asghar Abshi at a checkpoint in the center of Beirut on Friday. A Lebanese Army spokesman has denied any knowledge of the incident.

Iranians To Move Men, Arms From Residential Areas

NC081313 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Excerpts] The Iranian command in Ba'labakk has agreed to remove its forces, positions, and munition dumps to areas far from residential areas following steady pressures and contacts which have been made in this regard.

Our correspondent has learned that a leftist party delegation from Ba'labakk visited Damascus last Friday, met with Syrian officials, and asked Syria to intervene with the Iranians and Husayn al-Musawi in order to remove the gunmen and their munition dumps from the residential areas of the Ba'labakk district.

Our correspondent has also learned that there is strong resentment in Brital because of the intensive armed Iranian presence. The town's functionaries and representatives of its families have begun contacts with Shaykh Subhi at-Tufayli and the Iranian command in Ba'labakk to bring about the withdrawal of the Iranian gunmen from Brital.

Resistance to Shift Battle to Israel

GF081334 Doha QNA in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Jan (QNA) — The Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* today quoted informed nationalist circles in Beirut as saying that the Lebanese national resistance will shift the battle with Israel to the heart of occupied Palestine during the next few days. The circles added that painful blows will be dealt on Israeli installations in occupied Palestine. The paper also says the information indicates the Lebanese national resistance will not permit the Israelis to settle in any area and that it looks forward to achieving two goals in the near future: The first is to direct painful blows on the enemy and the second is to alleviate the sufferings of the Lebanese people.

PSP Sends Wounded to USSR for Treatment

NC090923 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 4 Jan 84 p 4

[Text] Upper al-Matn, *AS-SAFIR* — On 2 January, the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] sent 55 persons wounded in the recent battles in the mountain for treatment to hospitals in the Soviet Union. After ensuring the necessary travel requirements, the wounded were accompanied by Dr Halim Abu Fakhr ad-Din, PSP official in charge of health affairs in the Al-Matn area.

PLA Evacuates Position in Tripoli 7 Jan

NC070838 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Security sources in the north say the Palestine Liberation Army has vacated the Vehicle Registration Center in An-Nafi'ah, Majdlayya Road, at which normal work has resumed.

TISHRIN Discusses Riyadh Meeting on Lebanon

JN091027 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Text] On the Riyadh meeting, which is discussing the Lebanese crisis, *TISHRIN* writes: Following his arrival in Riyadh, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syria's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, made a point of affirming that the three foreign ministers will discuss all means of restoring peace and security to Lebanon and realizing Lebanese national accord. Khaddam is not saying anything new when he says Syria will do all it can so that the Riyadh meeting will achieve results beneficial for Lebanon and the Arabs as a whole. Khaddam has only reiterated Syria's principled position to support and protect Lebanon, to affirm the unity of the Lebanese people and territory, and to strengthen its sovereignty and independence.

This is not a new position. Everybody knows Syria has always practiced what it preached through its effective contribution to saving Lebanon from ruin, destruction, and war. Everyone will recall that Syria's contribution was instrumental in bringing about a cease-fire prior to the Geneva National Dialogue Conference. The first stage of this conference would not have succeeded without Syria's contributions. This first stage succeeded in affirming Lebanon's Arab identity and affiliation and in reaching a general agreement on the need to cancel the 17 May contract of submission which was formulated and imposed by Shultz and which placed Lebanon under Israeli domination.

The Lebanese Government wagered on the U.S. Administration to present a solution, for a price [al-hall as-si'ri], on the Lebanese crisis. However, this wagering has dwindled and completely disappeared despite the big talk by some people.

TISHRIN adds: Hence, the Riyadh meeting is being held amid many questions which center on two main points. The first is that the much-talked-about Lebanese security plan, which has been given encouragement by many sides, is yet to be declared. It is the escalation of the security situation in the Lebanese mountain and Beirut's southern suburb, rather than the promised security plan, that has been proved to exist. The second point is that the Lebanese Government continues to procrastinate on taking a responsible position on the agreement of submission despite the fact that the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference has emphasized this point.

If we consider the period which followed the Geneva conference, we find that the Marines and the Multinational Force have changed their role as peace-keeping forces. These forces, particularly the Marines and the French unit, have become a force of aggression, participating in the fighting on the side of the Army and the Phalangist militias. This prompted the nationalist forces to ask the Lebanese Government to take a clear position on the Marines before going to Geneva again.

Hence, the Riyadh conference must deal with the real obstacles that prevent the implementation of a security plan, in addition to the obstacles which prevent the Lebanese Government from taking a clear, responsible stand toward the Multinational Force and the agreement of submission. In fact, the next stage of the National Dialogue Conference should not begin before clear positions are taken on these issues which are considered to be basic and fateful. Otherwise, the meeting will not go beyond being a meeting of embraces and appeasements, espeially in view of the recent reports in Washington regarding a partial Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and another withdrawal by the Marines — reports that weaken the opposition to the implementation of the rest of the imperialist-Zionist plot.

Concluding, *TISHRIN* says: We must also say that Syria's desire to increase opportunities for reconvening the Geneva conference — important though it is — is not enough because the Lebanese Government and other Lebanese parties should play a responsible role that would contribute to solving the Lebanese crisis.

Libya's Jallud Confers With Government Leaders

Meeting With Al-Asad

JN061550 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] In Damascus, at 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the leadership of the Libyan 1 September Revolution. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

Maj Jallud conveyed a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, dealing with the situation in the region. He also conveyed to the president the greetings and wishes of Col al-Qadhdhafi. President al-Asad asked him to convey a reply message and thanked him for his greetings and wishes.

During the meeting, talks dealt with the various aspects of the situation in the region, the Arab situation, and issues of common interest.

Khaddam-Jallud Talks

JN071307 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] A second session of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon between 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the leadership of the Libyan 1 September Revolution. During this session, the two sides completed discussion on the current Arab situation.

Ministers Brief Cabinet at Session 8 Jan

Shamir Emphasizes Syrian Departure

TA081206 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1156 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer outside the prime minister's office in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] Israel insists on its position that it will get out of Lebanon only when the Syrian forces also depart. This is the position the prime minister reiterated today, a position that refutes all the reports that preceded the Cabinet session today.

In today's Cabinet session, the ministers were briefed about the situation in Lebanon. The defense minister and the chief of staff briefed the Cabinet about the Air Force attacks. The prime minister reported about his meetings with the U.S. representatives, Donald Rumsfeld and Senators Tower and Warner. He also announced the appointment of Avi'ezer Pazner as his adviser on communications affairs, and Pazner's deputy, Yosi Ahime'ir of *MA'ARIV*. At the end of the Cabinet session, we asked Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor about Israel's position regarding the situation in Lebanon:

[Begin recording] [Meridor] The Israeli position, as reflected in the talks with Mr Rumsfeld and at today's Cabinet session, is based on the 17 May agreement. One of the clauses in that agreement is the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. There is no truth to reports about a change in the Israeli position on this issue.

[Schiffer] Is it also not true that Israel has drawn up a plan for redeployment, a departure from the Al-Awwali River and a subsequent deployment along the Az-Zahrani River?

[Meridor] There is no truth to reports that Israel has made such a decision. It is true that deliberations in various frameworks are underway about the situation in Lebanon. Deliberations are certainly being held in the defense and other establishments. I assume that within such deliberations, all kinds of proposals are raised. However, according to law only the Cabinet is authorized to decide about this, and the Cabinet has not made any such decision. As I said, Israel's position about its withdrawal from Lebanon has not changed. It is clear to all, as we have said more than once, that the central interest in our stay in Lebanon is to secure such conditions that will enable us to leave Lebanon while securing our northern border. [end recording]

[Schiffer — live] So, the IDF will remain in Lebanon until the Syrian Army leaves, simultaneously, unless other conditions are created.

Argument on Position Reported

TA081627 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Israel is still making its departure from Lebanon dependent on a parallel departure by the Syrian forces. At the end of the Cabinet session, it was denied that Israel had expressed willingness to retreat from Lebanon unilaterally. The explanation sprang from an argument during the Cabinet session, during which the ministers claimed the prime minister and defense minister had not been authorized to change Israel's position.

Last week security sources reported that Israel no longer saw the link between its departure from Lebanon and that of the Syrians as an absolute condition. It has now been decided to hold a special discussion on the future of the arrangements in Lebanon so as to find a way to hand over to the Lebanese Army territories beyond the area regarded by Israel as vital to its security.

Meridor Comments on Session

TA091033 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English
8 Jan 84

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor said today that Israel continues to see Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon as a condition for I.D.F. withdrawal from that country, and he denied reports that the Cabinet has considered plans for further military redeployment in Lebanon.

Answering reporters' questions after today's Cabinet meeting, Mr. Meridor made the following remarks:

Question: Has Israel given up its condition for Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon?

Answer: Israel's position — as it was expressed also in the talks with Mr. Rumsfeld, as well as in today's Cabinet meeting — is based on the 17 May agreement, one of whose conditions is Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. Therefore, there is no truth in the reports of a change in the Israeli position in this matter.

Question: Has Israel prepared a plan for redeployment from the Al-Awwali line to the Az-Zahrani river?

Answer: There is no truth to reports that Israel has taken such a decision. It is true that in various frameworks, discussions are being held on the situation in Lebanon; certainly the discussions are being held in the defense establishment and in other circles. I assume that in the context of these discussions various proposals are made; but the body authorized to decide, according to our law, is the government, and no such decision has been taken. As I said, there is no change in Israel's position regarding its withdrawal from Lebanon. It is clear to everyone, as we have said more than once, that our central interest in staying in Lebanon is to ensure such conditions that will enable us to leave Lebanon while securing our northern border. The 17 May agreement is the proper way agreed to by Israel, America, (and) Lebanon, to establish such security arrangements. One of the conditions in that agreement, to which we are a party, is the departure of the Syrians and all the terrorists from Lebanon.

(In English)... [as published] The 17 May agreement, which is the basis of our policy, calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, Israel included, and , of course, the Syrians, and the P.L.O. terrorist organizations. We insist on this policy; the

Syrians and the P.L.O. and Israel should leave Lebanon as part of a simultaneous withdrawal: Israel and the Syrian forces together, this is our policy.

The government has not discussed any redeployment or new deployment plan of the Israeli forces in Lebanon, and our policy did not change on this matter. If things improve in Lebanon, and we have reconciliation and a quiet situation there, we will discuss, of course, all possibilities, and the news that has been in the papers and radio today and yesterday does not in any case reflect the policy of our government. If there are discussions in circles here or there, they do not reflect the policy of the government.

Question: Another condition of the agreement is continued Israeli presence in south Lebanon through patrols. Would Israel be opposed to the Syrians having the same kind of arrangements?

Answer: The truth is that the Syrians have not yet come to talk with us or with the Americans about conditions for their withdrawal. They don't seem to want to withdraw from Lebanon at all; so it would be rather superfluous, or at least premature, to talk about the accurate conditions now. But you have to remember that the only reason for those patrols, for those special arrangements that we require and have agreed upon in Lebanon, is the fact that we had infiltration, terrorist activity, shelling, Katyushas, rockets from Lebanese territory across our border to our territory. This has not been the case on the Lebanese-Syrian border. There has never been any infiltration from Lebanon to Syria or any terrorist activity from Lebanon to Syria; so I don't see any reason for the Syrians to ask for such similar conditions of security — they don't need it. But in any case, they have never come to talk about it, so it's premature.

Question: There are reports of imminent agreement in Lebanon between the warring factions, and calls in the United States for the withdrawal of the Marines. What is your reaction to these latest developments?

Answer: These are two separate issues. The first is the attempts that are made for consensus, agreement, inside Lebanon, between the factions in the country. We are for it, of course; I can't say that we were surprised by this news. I can't add to it, but we had our role, and we want to encourage the Lebanese factions to come to agreement under President al-Jumayyil; and if this can be achieved under the terms discussed in recent weeks, we are all for it.

Regarding the Marines in Beirut... American policymakers will decide whether to call them back or leave them there. I want to remind you that the Israeli border in Lebanon is kept, and the security there is kept, by Israeli forces, and not by the Marines. If the Marines leave, or other elements of the Multinational Force (leave), the consequences relating to the Al-Jumayyil government and other consequences have to be taken into account by the respective governments; Israel is not one of them.

Question: Chief of Staff Moshe Levi has said that continued Syrian presence in Lebanon would not have a negative impact on the strategic balance with Israel. Is that official government policy?

Answer: Official government policy is what I said...the advice of the chief of staff is given to the government from time to time, and it is a strategic military question, what is better for Israel, under specific terms here or there; I can't relate to it.

A senior official told reporters later that Israel's adherence to the 17 May agreement's provisions for withdrawal of all foreign forces does not contradict statements by Defense Minister Arens that Israel's only goal in Lebanon is securing the safety of its northern settlements. The source asserted that while this is Israel's main goal in Lebanon, it has other goals there (which the defense minister also shares), such as a stable Lebanese Government ruling a country free of Syrian and terrorist presence. The source emphasized that Syria is the source for the terrorists' activity in Lebanon, and that its withdrawal would mean a Lebanon free of such elements.

The source noted that the only agreed way to achieve Israel's goal of security in the north is the 17 May agreement, which stipulates the withdrawal of all foreign forces. It would be foolish for Israel to voluntarily offer to abrogate the conditions of that agreement, the source said.

Regarding the strategic significance for Israel of a Syrian presence in Lebanon, the source noted that there are various perceptions in Israel of this presence: While some maintain that the Syrian deployment on two fronts weakens that country and is to Israel's benefit, others say that Syria is strong on both fronts and therefore should be pressured to withdraw from Lebanon.

The source said that while Israel is considering a range of possibilities concerning its future deployment in Lebanon, it has not yet considered taking any concrete steps on this issue. Israeli policymakers face a dilemma in which further IDF withdrawal south in Lebanon would risk renewed terror against Israel's northern settlements; the problem is whether to risk more soldiers in Lebanon or more civilians in the Galilee, the source said.

The source added that Syria could be pressured to withdraw from Lebanon, by means of the extension of the authority of the central Lebanese Government, coupled with closer Israeli-U.S. coordination. These steps would show Syria that circumstances are not necessarily in Damascus's favor, and would serve as an incentive for Syria to come forward with a proposal to resolve the Lebanon crisis, the source said.

The source added that withdrawal of the U.S. Marines from Lebanon would weaken the central Lebanese Government and be perceived by the Syrians and the Soviets as a victory over the United States; still, the issue of withdrawal of the Marines is a separate U.S. concern which has no direct bearing on Israel's desire for security along its border with Lebanon, the source said.

Regarding possible Jordanian moves toward negotiations on the future of Judaea and Samaria, the source said that no "new decisive direction" has been perceived in Jordanian policy, though there have been some signs of renewed Jordanian interest in the administered territories bordering the Jordan River. The source said that King Husayn's recent reiteration of his position that the PLO is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the forthcoming meeting between Yasir

'Arafat and the king, are evidence that there has been no change in the Jordanian position.

Military Sources on 'More Convenient' Deployment
TA081950 Jerusalem Television in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Security sources have told our correspondent in the north, Moti 'Eden, that Israel does not necessarily have to wait for the Syrians to leave Lebanon. They say that Israel can withdraw to a security strip in southern Lebanon, which would be more convenient thatn the Al-Awwali River line. These military sources think it would be possible to defend peace in Galilee even on a line that would be 15-20 km distance from the northern border. The security elements said that it would be more convenient for the IDF in the eastern sector if a multinational or UNIFIL force acted as a buffer between it and the Syrian Army.

Levi: Syrians Foil Lebanon Arrangement
TA091027 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0948 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi says that Syria is foiling the implementation of a settlement in Lebanon. With their coordinated political and military policies, the Syrians do not desire a settlement but rather are trying to dictate conditions. Levi said this to members of American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Jewish lobby in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives who visited his office.

Deputy Prime Minister Recommends Early Elections
TA070920 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has said that if it transpires that not all the coalition partners are ready to pitch in and accept an economic rehabilitation plan, early Knesset elections should be held. He said there is no point fighting over every individual vote to survive. He was interviewed by our political correspondent. Our correspondent noted that Levi said several times last year that early elections should be held.

As for the possibility that he would again run for the post of prime minister, David Levi refused to give an explicit answer, saying that this depends on the future political situation. When the time comes, everyone will determine his approach and decision.

Shamir Briefed on Acceptance of Budget Cuts
TA061825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The prime minister was briefed by the finance minister this afternoon on the deliberations held by the Ministerial Committee on Economics Affairs, and later expressed satisfaction with the fact that most of the ministers are prepared to cut their ministries' budgets. This is reported by our political correspondent.

It transpires from today's Ministerial Committee deliberations that there are difficulties in cutting the budgets of the Health Ministry and the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry. Deputy Labor Minister Ben-Tziyon Rubin said that if the welfare budget affects the salaried people and the low-income strata seriously, he would advise his colleagues to leave the government and set up an alternative government instead. He said that it is obvious to TAMI that there is no point in threatening, so therefore if the welfare budget is cut, TAMI will simply get up and leave.

Shamir Meets Tower; Comments on Marines Stay
TA061720 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The prime minister has said that Israel is not asking that the U.S. Marines remain in Lebanon, just as it did not ask for them to be sent in the first place. However, an early departure by the Marines could jeopardize the stability of the Al-Jumayyil regime. Yitzhaq Shamir said this to the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator John Tower. Tower in turn reported to Shamir on his talks in Syria and Lebanon.

Earlier, Yitzhaq Shamir conferred with Special U.S. Envoy Donald Rumsfeld.

MA'ARIV Reveals Shamir Message to Shultz
TA090915 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Jan 84 pp 1, 11

[Report by the Washington correspondent]

[Text] In a message he sent to U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said: "It is not that 'Arafat has come closer to Egypt's positions; quite the contrary, Mubarak has been getting closer to 'Arafat."

The message, which given to Secretary Shultz by Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Me'ir Rosenne, during his meeting with the secretary last week, also includes sharp criticism of U.S. support for the 'Arafat-Mubarak meetings in Cairo.

The prime minister's letter was rather sharply worded and was several pages long. It repeats the reasons for the Israeli Government's opposition to the meeting and explains why it has reservations about the Reagan administration's support for it. The prime minister contended that Mubarak was inclined to adopt 'Arafat's positions, rather than 'Arafat changing his views. The prime minister protested against Egypt's "gall" in arranging the meeting with 'Arafat, thus blatantly violating the Camp David accords and the peace agreement between the two countries. He further noted that Israel was hurt by the fact that the United States rushed to welcome that meeting so quickly.

U.S. Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Arrives
TA090537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] General John Vessey, chairman of the U.S. joint chiefs of staff, begins an official visit to Israel today, with a meeting with

Israel's chief of staff in Tel Aviv. The U.S. general is on what is being described as a get-acquainted visit to Israel and its military establishment. This is his first visit here. He was due to come to Israel toward the end of the last year but postponed the visit after the attack on the U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut.

During his stay Gen Vessey will also be meeting with Defense Minister Moshe Arens and other political figures. The U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement is not expected to be dealt with during the general's visit. An Israeli delegation is to travel to Washington later this month for discussions on that topic.

Gen Vessey arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport 5 hours behind schedule without announcing he would be late or the reason for the delay. By the time he arrived the party that was to greet him had already gone home.

Difficulties Expected in Free-Trade Zone Talks

TA081055 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Jan 84 p 3

[Report by Yitzhaq Dish]

[Text] Government officials in Jerusalem fear that economic interest groups in the United States and Israel will try to sabotage the free trade zone negotiations between the two countries. It is assessed that pressure will be exerted by U.S. industries not to make too many concessions to Israeli exports, for fear that they will compete with U.S. industry. Israeli manufacturers also fear that a free trade zone will decrease the protection of their products, and therefore they are expected to put pressure on the government.

Talks on the subject of the free trade zone agreement will open in Washington on 17 January, in which high level officials and experts from Israel and the United States will participate.

During the preparatory talks held in Jerusalem, Industry and Trade Minister Gid'on Pat said that the Israeli positions must be prepared carefully, due to the influence the agreement will have on Israel's economy.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sends Letter to Shamir

TA080956 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] The Egyptian charge d'affaires in Israel, Muhamad Basyuni, last Friday presented to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem the content of Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Kamal Hasan 'Ali's letter to the prime minister in which he protested Israel's policies in Judaea and Samaria, and the "attempt to apply Israeli law in the territories."

The content of the Egyptian foreign minister's letter was delivered verbally to the director of the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean desk in the Foreign Ministry, Tzvi Qedar.

Jerusalem is expecting Egypt to take practical steps in trade and tourism as expressions of goodwill following the visit to Israel of the director general of the Egyptian Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Military Sources Deny Reports on Sidon Incidents

TA071306 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Military sources have denied a report that IDF Merkava tanks raced through the main streets of Sidon today, firing shots in all directions and particularly at parked cars, slightly injuring some people. The denial is reported by the AP correspondent in Tel Aviv, after an AP correspondent in Sidon had originally reported on the incident. The Tel Aviv sources said that if such an incident had really taken place, Sherman tanks belonging to Sa'd Haddad's men would have been involved. It was emphasized that in any case, no Israeli force participated in such an action.

Suspect Car Attack Blamed

TA071948 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] An IDF patrol which fired this morning at a vehicle in central Sidon suspected of being booby-trapped, set off a wave of rumors which swept the town and spread throughout the world. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht investigated and found that the patrol discovered a private car in the center of Sidon, parked in a no-parking area as defined by security orders. The patrol tried to locate the owner of the vehicle, and when they were unsuccessful, they fired a volley into the car. Our correspondent says that it is possible that this caused panic, and as a result rumors began to spread to the effect that tanks had shot up dozens of vehicles and wounded three local residents. The IDF spokesman has emphatically denied that Israeli tanks operated in the center of Sidon. Our correspondent notes that IDF forces have orders to blow up suspicious vehicles parked in Sidon in locations where the residents know parking is forbidden.

Former West Bank Mayor Hamdallah Arrested

TA061241 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Jan 84 p 2

[Report by Roni Sheqed]

[Text] Wahid Kamal Hamdallah, who was once the mayor of 'Anabta (near Tulkarm) and one of the leaders of the National Guidance Committee, was arrested yesterday morning at his home by the security forces. He is suspected of having murdered (Mahmud Baqar) from the village of (Labda) near 'Anabta in December 1983. Lawyer Felicia Langer claimed yesterday that in her opinion, Hamdallah's arrest was a provocation by the security forces. She said that the police staff had refused to give her any details on the reason for the arrest.

Reportage on OAU Chadian Reconciliation Conference

Spokesman Hopes Habre Attends

AB061627 Paris AFP in English 1554 GMT 6 JAN 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, Jan 6 (AFP) — Ethiopian Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde today expressed confidence that Chadian President Hissein Habre would attend the roundtable conference on Chad organised by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) which is due to open here on Monday.

In a press statement here, Mr Goshu said he was aware of "massive pressure applied against Mr Habre by certain powers to prevent him from going to Addis Ababa." But he added that he was certain the Chadian leader would neither be presssured nor influenced by these forces" who evidently are the natural enemies of Chad", but whom he did not name.

The statement by Mr Goshu, who is spokesman for the current OAU chairman, Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam, was seen here as a reaction to a hint by Chadian Foreign Minister Idriss Miskine yesterday that Mr Habre might not attend the conference. Mr Miskine said only that the Chad Government would be represented.

He had also alleged that Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu was himself being pressured by "Libya and maybe the Soviet Union" to torpedo the forthcoming talks. Mr Miskine tied this to "enormous" concentrations of Libyan troops and Chadian rebels around Iriba in northeastern Chad, apparently poised for a fresh attack against the Habre forces before Monday.

Mr Goshu also announced that preparations for Monday's meeting were now complete. He called for a "spirit of compromise, a willingness to put the interests of Chad above everything else," for the talks to succeed.

He predicted that this meeting between "the Chadian brothers" would be a major step forward in bringing an end to the Chadian tragedy.

The OAU has invited 11 of Chad's factions to come here for the meeting, at which no observers or interested parties will be represented.

Goukouni Oueddei Arrives

EA081536 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT
8 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The leader of one of Chad's factions, Goukouni Oueddei, and his entourage arrived this morning in Addis Ababa, to take part in the meeting expected to open tomorrow, 9 January, to discuss the situation in Chad.

He was welcomed at Bole International Airport by Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, PMAC [Provisional Military Administrative Council] and COPWE Chairman, commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and current chairman of the OAU.

More on Arrival

AB081034 Paris AFP in English 1017 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, Jan 8 (AFP) — Ousted Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei arrived here today to attend the roundtable conference on Chad staged by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) which opens here tomorrow. [Passage indistinct] Mariam and interim OAU Secretary-General Peter Onu. The former president, who was ousted from Ndjamena by Hissein Habre in 1982, was given a welcome halfway between that reserved for a visiting head of state and an ex-incumbent, in which sources here said was a formula agreed upon by the OAU in advance.

Mr Goukouni, whose Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) forces still hold much of northern Chad, had originally said he would attend the Addis Ababa conference as head of the legitimate Government of Chad. Later he said he would go as head of one of Chad's many factions, if Mr Habre agreed to do the same, but if the current president claimed to represent a government he would change his position." [quotation mark as received]

At the moment the OAU recognises the legitimacy of the Ndjamena regime, and Mr Habre, if he comes, is expected to be accorded a welcome due to a head of state.

However, the late Chadian Foreign Minister Idriss Miskine, who died yesterday of malaria, indicated last week that Mr Habre would send a representative. He accused Libya, which backs the GUNT, and "maybe the Soviet Union" of trying to sabotage the talks.

Tomorrow's conference aims at bringing together the [words indistinct] 11 of Chad's politico-military factions so they can discuss their differences and agree how to end the 17-year civil war in the country. The success of the conference is seen as critical for the continued credibility of the OAU.

Minister to Represent Habre

AB081229 Paris AFP in French 1216 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Paris, 8 Jan (AFP) — Chadian President Hissein Habre will not participate personally in the Addis Ababa roundtable conference on the Chadian conflict because of the official welcome accorded on Sunday morning to former President Goukouni Oueddei on his arrival in the Ethiopian capital, it was learned from a source close to the Chadian Embassy in Paris. The Ndjamena government delegation will be led by Interior Minister Tahar Guinassou, the same source stated.

Government Delegation to Talks

JN081748 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 8 Jan (SUNA) — A Chadian Government delegation led by Minister of Interior and Security Tahar Guinassou left for Addis Ababa at 1600 today, local Sudan time, to participate in the National Reconciliation Conference to be held there tomorrow. The delegation also includes seven Chadian ministers, four members of the Council of the Armed Forces of

the North Command, and four members of the Chadian National Consultative Council.

At the airport, a number of officials declined to say why Chadian President Hissein Habre was not heading the delegation. Government sources pointed out that President Habre would join the delegation after making sure the conference surmounted all of thedifficulties that might confront it. It has been mentioned that the death of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Idriss Miskine was a loss to the delegation because he was flexible and acceptable to most of the parties to the Chadian issue.

Delegation Arrives

EA090648 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0400 GMT
9 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The Chadian minister of the interior, Mr Tahar Guinassou, arrived here last night at the head of the Chadian Government delegation. He was welcomed by Comrade Goshu Wolde, minister of foreign affairs and COPWE Central Committee, Dr Peter Onu, interim OAU secretary general, and other officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and OAU.

More on Arrival

AB090746 Paris AFP in English 0728 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, Jan 9 (AFP) — Chadian Minister Tahar Guinassou arrived here last night for a roundtable conference aimed at reconciling the various warring factions in the country, which opens here today. Mr Guinassou heads a 20-strong delegation from the Ndjamena government, whose president, Hissein Habre, refused to come yesterday because of the welcome given here to his ousted rival Goukouni Oueddei.

Mr Goukouni, who came from Libya with a 300-strong entourage, was treated as "halfway between a visiting head of state and a previous incumbent" by Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, the current Organization of African Unity (OAU) chairman.

The conference is due to start this afternoon in the Ethiopian National Palace, and Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu will chair the opening session, sources close to the OAU said.

The 11 Chadian factions which signed the 1979 Lagos accords setting up the Transitional Government of National Unity [GUNT] under Mr Goukouni have been invited to the conference, but representatives of only eight were expected to turn up. Some are still in the GUNT, which was ousted from Ndjamena in June 1982 by Mr Habre, its former defences minister, but still controls the northern part of Chad with Libyan support. Others appear to be moribund.

Mr Habre's regime, dominated by his Armed Forces of the North (FAN) faction, has been recognised as the official government of Chad by the OAU.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi on Tunisia, PLO, Relations with U.S.

LD090147 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] AFP, REUTER, American television, TASS, and (?the SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY) have had an interview with the brother leader of the revolution in which he spoke about a number of Arab and international issues. In the interview the leader touched upon the subject of the withdrawal of American troops and the Multinational Force from Lebanon and their replacement by forces from smaller countries under the aegis of the United Nations, stressing in this respect the preparedness of the Jamahiriyah to send troops to Lebanon to prevent fighting among the Lebanese after the withdrawal of these forces.

In this press interview the leader also dealt with the deployment of the U.S. nuclear cruise missiles in the Comiso base in southern Italy, pointing out that we will face this in solidarity with the Italian people, who reject the presence of these missiles, which constitute a danger to the existence of the Italian people in the event of war.

The leader also discussed the situation that prevailed in fraternal Tunisia in recent days, revealing that the U.S. Administration had been bracing itself for intervention in Tunisia during the events. He stressed that monitoring (?services) intercepted communications ordering 6th Fleet units to move toward Tunisian shores to exploit the situation and to entrench U.S. forces in the Arab Maghreb as they did in Lebanon.

The brother leader also spoke about the recent developments within the Fatah organization and 'Arafat's visit and meeting with the head of the Egyptian regime, stressing that 'Arafat is considered finished, at least as far as Fatah is concerned.

The brother leader of the revolution touched upon Libyan-American relations and the hostility harbored by the current U.S. Administration toward the Arab Libyan people, explaining that the whole world is praying for peace and for America to get rid of Reagan, because he is going to cause a disaster for America due to his aggressive leanings and his militarist policy.

Jallud on 'New Fatah,' 'Arafat Leadership

LD072321 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Excerpts] On the 19th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud has saluted the new revolutionary Fatah movement. He said the emergence of the movement was a courageous and great event which will be immortalized by the coming generations of Palestinians and Arabs.

In a speech at a popular rally held yesterday evening in Damascus, he explained that the new Fatah revolutionary movement made change possible and also the burial of the cycle of defeat, treason, and surrender. Maj Jallud also saluted the Palestinian alliance which embraces the PFLP-GC, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the As-Sa'iqah organization with the Fatah revolutionary movement.

Staff Maj Jallud warned of attempts which are taking place to encircle the revolutionary uprising within Fatah and to contain it in order to prevent this historical event from taking its course as a historical transformation in favor of the Palestinian revolutionary movement and the pan-Arab liberation movement. He stressed that the people of the Jamahiriyah and the revolutionary committees movement oppose these attempts. They believe this historic action will take its course and lead to (?rejuvenating) the Palestinian and Arab revolutions and the pan-Arab unionist movement.

Staff Maj Jallud declared that the new Fatah revolutionary movement is Fatah and that the leadership of the uprising in Fatah is the legitimate leadership of Fatah. He called on the rest of the misguided Fatah cadres to join the brothers in the uprising and (?strengthen) the militant course of Fatah and the Palestinian revolution. He said that the 19th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution is the anniversary of rejuvenating the revolution, the anniversary of the militant tide, the anniversary of holding on to the rifle and to martyrdom and to upholding the vow to liberate Palestine from the river to the sea.

Staff Maj Jallud refuted the attempt to separate the Central Committee from Yasir 'Arafat and refuted the statement by some people that the Fatah Central Committee is not (?controled) by Yasir 'Arafat. He said 'Arafat did not go to Egypt or meet with Husni Mubarak until after consulting the Central Committee and obtaining its approval. He stressed the need for the other progressive Palestinian groups to decide their stand toward the reactionary leadership in Fatah and said they should make up their minds over the need to topple the right-wing leadership in its entirety and to overthrow the capitulationist-reactionary-rightist trend. He said they must shoulder their historic responsibility before the Palestinian masses and before the Palestinian martyrs and before the Arab nation and its honorable fighters.

Staff Maj Jallud stressed the need to agree to a plan to conduct struggle against the Zionist-imperialist enemy. He denounced the treacherous aerial aggression by Zionist warplanes against defenseless citizens in Ba'labakk which caused death and injury to many. He said: In the Jamahiriyah, we feel pain for this ugly massacre which the Zionist enemy has committed. He stressed the imperative need to put up resolute opposition to this Zionist brigandry with all the means of resistance.

Staff Maj Jallud noted the genuine mass upsurge demonstrated in the steadfast stand by Syria and the stand of the Fatah uprising and the Palestinian alliance. He explained that this upsurge is the decisive answer to the circle of treason and to the agreements of surrender and to Zionism and imperialism.

He said that the movement of popular and mass upsurge began with the outbreak of the courageous uprising, together with the alliance and with the stand of Syria and the Jamahiriyyah alongside this uprising.

Jallud warned against (?Zionist-imperialist) reactionary attempts to benefit from the meeting between 'Arafat and Mubarak to break the isolation of the Egyptian regime and to pan-Arabize Camp David. He warned that 1984 will be the year of the masses and the year of their wrath — the year of the masses' revenge against capitulationist and defeatist regimes and the year of masses deluge and the year of (?revenge).

Iranian Official Meets With Al-'Ubaydi

LD081222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Having ended his visit to Syria, the political under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, leading a delegation, arrived in Libya, where he met and conferred with 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the secretary of foreign liaison. In the course of the meeting the Islamic Republic's stands and viewpoints in connection with its refusal to attend the Islamic summit conference in Morocco and the region's current developments were explained. The two sides also discussed and exchanged views on plots hatched by America and other powers aimed against returning Egypt to the Islamic and Arab world, conspiratorial attempts made within the context of the Jordan-Egypt-Iraq axis against the Islamic Republic of Iran in line with the promotion of Camp David and efforts to compromise the PLO. During the 2-hour meeting, they also discussed the problems faced by Lebanon and the Iraqi-imposed war on the Islamic Republic of Iran, with both sides emphasizing maximum cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Jabir Confers With Ethiopia's Fisseha Desta

LD081428 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] A working session was held this morning in Tripoli between Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, and Fisseha Desta, member of the executive committee of the people's party [title as heard] of Socialist Ethiopia. The session was attended by Brothers 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of foreign liaison, and Al-Bukhari Salim Hudah, secretary of communications and maritime transport and secretary of the Libyan Arab Bureau in Addis Ababa. On the Ethiopian side, it was attended by Fesfaye Wolde Selassie, minister of public and national security, Kassa Gebre, minister of construction, and the Ethiopian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah.

TUNISIA

Decision Rescinding Price Hikes Welcomed

Bouguiba Speech

LD071213 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, has himself announced the historic decision he made to illuminate the path and reassure people. Tunisia yesterday witnessed a courageous stance by the man who made Tunisia's history and echoed the aspirations of the masses in the darkest moments of the struggle. He adopted the right stance at the right moment.

The clearest demonstration of harmony and spontaneity transpired yesterday between the victorious leader and his loyal people: elation and joy engulfed all sections of the Tunisian people throughout the reublic, and citizens took to the streets expressing their warm appreciation of the courageous decision made by the supreme combatant providing for the prices of bread and pasta to be restored to their original level. The masses paid tribute to the leader of the nation for his far-sightedness, which always takes into consideration the interest of the people. The Tunisian people in this spontaneous wave of joy stressed their true love for the brave leader of Tunisia who has always made historic decisions.

Here is the address made by the supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, yesterday morning to the Tunisian people on radio and television:

[Begin recording] Tunisian people: Now that security has been established in Tunisia through the efforts of the people and the security troops, I have decided, in the face of the unrest that has taken place in Tunisia, that we should return to the status quo ante, as we were before the hikes. As for the price hikes on semolina, macaroni, we will leave these for another time. We return to the status quo, and I order the government to submit to me a new budget in 3 months' time, a budget that takes into account the needy and provides the necessary funds so that we can cut the prices of pasta, couscous, and macaroni.

We must now return to the situation where we were initially, that is, before the hikes. The price hikes are not going to be taken into account, and I have ordered the government to bring to me in 3 months a draft budget that takes into consideration the needy and that does not make them bear the burden.

This is what I wanted to tell you; this is the good news for you. I have been able to do this only now that security has been re-established, thanks to the troops, the police, the Army, the National Guard, and the people — all the people. We are undertaking this operation, and the government is going to give me new calculations. It is going to make its calculations and strive to ensure that no exorbitant price hikes affect bread, macaroni, or semolina.

What had influenced me — you, the people, must know — what had influenced me was that I was told that bread was being sold as fodder for cattle. I remember once at a Council of Ministers meeting I spoke to [Tunis Mayor] Zakaria Ben Mustapha — this is true — telling him: You deal with regular garbage collection, don't you? Does it contain bread? He said: Yes, it does; it contains a lot of bread. Then I authorized the price of bread to be raised a little. But the hike is too great, and my present decision is better.

Security has been established in Tunisia, in all the regions, and I have decided that we should return to where we were before the rises, and I am charging the government with the task of submitting to me a new budget, within 3 months, containing other

things, [price hikes on] spirits, wine, and so forth, in order to alleviate the burden on the needy concerning bread, macaroni, and semolina.

The peace and blessing of God be upon you. [applause] [end recording]

Release of Detainees Anounced

LD062337 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba announced during a splendid meeting this evening with a large gathering of people outside the republican palace in Carthage that he has decided to free from detention all detainees who did not engage in looting, sabotage, or plundering. Tens of thousands of people who came to greet the leader were overwhelmed with enthusiasm and carried his excellency over their heads. The people in Carthage then mounted a splendid spontaneous demonstration which once again confirmed the extent of the [word indistinct] which links the leader with his people.

Mzali Acting Interior Minister

LD071040 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba held a working session with Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali at the presidential palace in Carthage this morning. The president's adviser, Habib Bourguiba Jr, was present. After the audience, Mohamed Mzali announced the president's decision to make a partial change in the government. President Habib Bourguiba has charged the prime minister with assuming responsibility as acting interior minister. [passage indistinct]

Interior Ministry Secretary

LD071643 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Excerpt] His excellency the president has appointed (Amir Ghdirah) secretary of state to the minister of the interior.

Curfew Reduced 6 Jan

LD061637 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] We have just received the following statement from the ministers of interior and national defense:

In accordance with the orders of the supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, president of Tunisia, the ministers of interior and national defense announce that the curfew period, which was imposed in accordance with Order No 2 for 1984 in January from 1800 until 0500, has been reduced. As from the date of this statement, it will be as follows: The curfew period for persons and automobiles is 2000-0400.

Demonstrations Greet Retraction

NC061157 Paris AFP in English 1148 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Tunis, Jan 6 (AFP) — President Habib Bourguiba today announced his decision to cancel all the price increases on bread and cereal products which provoked a week of serious rioting throughout Tunisia which left widespread damage and a reported 60 people dead. The president's announcement in a nationwide broadcast sparked off a massive demonstration of joy in the streets of Tunis.

Immediately after the announcement bread was being sold in city bakeries at its original price of 50 mils (about seven cents). This heavily subsidised price has not changed for some ten years, in spite of inflation.

The president's announcement sparked off another massive demonstration in this time of joy. Within minutes of the news being known people poured into the streets. The capital's main artery, Habib Bourguiba Avenue, was black with people chanting the head of state's praises and singing the national anthem. Drivers of cars and buses sounded their horns while helicopters swooped low over the city.

The president's statement was to be followed by a press conference by Interior Minister Driss Guiga.

The subsidies were withdrawn in an effort to reduce the chronic deficit of the government's special compensatory fund, and the original intention was to help the worst-off sections of the population with increased cash allowances. The government said yesterday it had reached an agreement with the country's labour representatives in the General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT) on "fair compensation" for the price increases.

A cabinet statement also said that a "large number of criminals and professional agitators" had been arrested during the rioting and said many had "confessed" to matters which it did not elaborate. Some reports put the number arrested at more than 3,000.

The cabinet statement also thanked the general population for its support, and the army and the security forces for having "loyally and efficiently neutralised the troublemakers."

Mzali Explains Retraction

LD061649 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali gave an exclusive interview to Radio France International today after the announcement of President Habib Bourguiba's decision to rescind the increases in bread and flour prices. He expressed the view that the (?cancellation) of the price increase of bread is proof that the government is honest, as it admitted that it probably overestimated the ability of the Tunisian people to put up with these increases and sacrifices to consolidate the Tunisian economy. Mr Mzali added that since Tuesday he thought that the increases in the price of bread and other items would not be

accepted and that only President Habib Bourguiba could restore the situation to normality.

Mr Mzali said that the first priority is to guarantee the security of the people and to establish [word indistinct] of the state and to restore stability to [word indistinct], then to restore tranquillity to the people. Only President Habib Bourguiba is able to do this.

Parliament Supports Bourguiba Decision

LD061731 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The Parliament has issued a statement which said:

The office of the Parliament met this Friday morning, 6 January 1984, in Bardau Palace. After listening to the historic statement and firm decision of the supreme combatant President Habib Bourguiba this morning, the Parliament expresses its admiration for the supreme combatant's decision, which proves again his deep sympathy for his loyal people, especially the weak sections of this people, and his enthusiasm for the interests and aspirations of the people. The Parliament records with satisfaction today, as it recorded in its general session yesterday, that the last word has remained for the law and legitimacy and that the constitutional institutions of the republican regime have emerged strong and intact from the crisis by virtue of the confidence of the people in their struggle and gathering around their president.

The parliament expresses its readiness to contribute in adopting all the legislative resolutions necessary according to the new directions of the president, which [word indistinct] with the interests of the people, within the (?choice) of the legislative and executive powers, and [word indistinct] the cooperation between them within the framework of continuous work toward consolidating the policy of comprehensive development which responds to the aspirations and interests of the people.

Opposition Parties Welcome Move

LD062359 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Concerning reaction among the opposition parties in Tunisia to the decision of the supreme combatant to abolish the increase in the price of bread and pasta, President Habib Bourguiba received a telephone call this evening from [name indistinct], secretary general of the Socialist Democrats Movement, in which he expressed his pleasure at the decisive decision made by his excellency in preservation of the interests of all social groups, foremost the weak, a decision which could only be made by a statesman like Bourguiba. He also expressed his solidarity (?in the implementation of this decision).

The Tunisian Communist Party addressed a cable to the supreme combatant which says in particular that the Tunisian Communist Party expresses its deep satisfaction with the president's wise abolishing the price hikes of bread and pasta, a decisive measure that responds to the desires of the popular masses and the poor and which maintains the safety and gains of our country.

Trade Unions Hail Decision

LD071028 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba received members of the Tunisian Federation of Trade Unions [UGTT] Executive Bureau in the White Hall of the presidential palace in Carthage yesterday evening. After the meeting, Habib Achour said: After the meeting of the Administrative Committee of the UGTT, we listened to President Habib Bourguiba's statement which was good news and which made an impact on and was blessed by the whole of the Administrative Committee. Its members authorized us to come to the president and convey our congratulations to him on this stance. We have come to the president and informed him of the Administrative Committee's opinion and the federation's thanks for the decision he took regarding the restoration of the compensation fund. We most certainly regard this action of the president a very beneficial one and one for which the federation has been calling for a long time. Although we have been asking for compensation for workers, we knew that this was not the ideal solution. The ideal solution is the one announced by the president for the whole nation.

Schools, Youth Centers Still Closed

LD071532 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The Ministries of National Education and Higher Education and Scientific Research announce that it has been decided to postpone the opening of institutions of primary, secondary, and higher education as well as the university [word indistinct] and canteens until a date which will be set later.

In a statement issued today by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, it was noted that it has been decided to keep youth centers, children's nurseries, and cadre institutions of the ministry closed until further notice.

Agreement Reached on East African Community Issues

EA071633 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 7 Dec 84

[Excerpt] A meeting of ministerial delegations, permanent secretaries, and officials from Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania ended on Thursday [5 January] with an agreement on various outstanding issues related to the defunct East African Community.

The meeting, which took place in Arusha 4-5 January, discussed in detail the final settlement of specific mediation matters. They reached an understanding on various issues related to detailed division of long-term liabilities, compensation payments, division of rolling stock between Kenya and Uganda, and pension liabilities.

Following the understanding reached, the mediator was requested to prepare final figures on these issues for discussion at the next ministerial meeting, to be held in Nairobi on 23 January.

ETHIOPIA

Government Statement Condemns RSA Angolan Incursion

EA061910 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Revolutionary Ethiopia today called on all peace-loving people to give the necessary support and aid to the heroic people of Angola in their attempts to defend themselves against the arrogant attack by racist South Africa.

A statement released today by the Foreign Ministry says Socialist Ethiopia is deeply concerned by the recent unlawful attack by racist South African regime on the People's Republic of Angola, stressing that repeated attacks by the racist government on Angola and the occupation of its land are not only violations of the country's dignity and territorial integrity but clearly a threat to regional and world peace and security.

The statement describes as barbarous the fascist South African regime's air raids with bombs during recent weeks in violation of Angola's airspace and (?called on) the international community to grieve over the massacre of peaceful people. The statement points out that, bolstered by the aid and secret support of a number of Western countries, South Africa is trying to (?disrupt) peaceful links between countries and governments. It says that Revolutionary Ethiopia vehemently condemns the recent catastrophe perpetrated against the lives of peaceful people in Angola. Moreover, Revolutionary Ethiopia calls on the international community to press for the immediate withdrawal of South Africa's aggressive forces from Angolan territory.

ELF Office in Gulf Reports Battle Victories

GF081252 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Jan (WAKH) — The Eritrean revolutionaries inflicted heavy losses upon the Ethiopean forces as a result of an attack waged by the Ethiopean forces on the Eritrean revolutionaries in the (Hable Layban) region in Eritrea at the beginning of this month.

A military statement which was distributed by the office of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Revolutionary Council in the Gulf today said that the Ethiopean forces withdrew to Karin town after a fierce battle which was waged by the Eritrean revolutionaries.

The statement said that the Eritrean revolutionaries destroyed two military vehicles and killed three Ethiopean soldiers in a battle that took place in (Ba Dami) region last week. Five Ethiopean troops were killed, and a tank and a military vehicle were destroyed in another operation in (Mansciua).

Seven Ethiopean soldiers were also killed in Shiloleh, and the fierce clashes which began yesterday between the Ethiopean forces and the Eritrean revolutionaries in a number of regions in Eritrea are still in progress.

Ethiopian Fronts Cooperate in Gondar Region

EA071853 (Clandestine) Voice of Tigre Revolution in Amharic to Ethiopia 1345 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Fighters of the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement [EPDM], in cooperation with fighters of the TPLF [Tigre People's Liberation Front], have carried out victorious actions in the (Belesa) district of (Libo) province, Gondar region. The fighters attacked the Dergue garrison stationed in the town of (Arbiha) when their comrades left the town to capture liberated towns, and emerged victorious.

In the fighting on 27 December, the heroic forces of the TPLF and the EPDM killed 6 enemy soldiers, wounded 10 and captured 36 soldiers, 30 guns of various makes, one big communications radio, 20 (?RPG-7) rockets, 5,000 rounds of ammunition of various makes, a house full of property, and numerous miscellaneous items. They also burned two enemy vehicles.

In a bid to recapture the town, Dergue soldiers carried out helicopter attacks, burning grain mounds and crops ready to be reaped.

EPLF Claims 2 Government Casualties 5 Jan

EA081551 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somalia and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali 1200 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Units of the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front, EPLF, launched a bloody and fierce attack against the enemy black Abyssinian forces stationed in northeast Sahel on 5 January. In the encounter, the heroic forces of the EPLF killed two senior military officers of the black Abyssinian force and wounded many others, and an assortment of military hardware was destroyed.

Reports add that on 1 January, 50 teenagers joined forces with the EPLF. Inhabitants of eastern Eritrea who are sympathetic to the EPLF cause contributed 5,794 Ethiopian dollars to the EPLF.

TPLF Attacks Government Forces Near Hagere Selam

EA071623 (Clandestine) Voice of Tigre Revolution in Amharic to Ethiopia 1345 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] On 26 December the heroic forces of the Tigre People's Liberation Front ambushed an enemy force of above battalion strength that was moving from Hagere Selam to Melfa on a mission to mass-arrest peasants who had boycotted Dergue conventions, killing and wounding 87 soldiers and forcing the rest to retreat.

In another development an enemy force of above battalion strength moving from Hagere Selam to Arghen on 20 December was attacked by our forces, who killed and wounded five soliders, forcing the rest of the enemy forces to retreat.

SOMALIA

Council of Ministers Approves Private Food Imports

EA061901 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] Council of Ministers met under the chairmanship of the SDR president, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, last night and approved a resolution to permit Somali private businessmen and members of the general public to import food directly.

The regular session of the SDR Council of Ministers resolved that the period within which people are permitted to import food directly is the 3 months starting from 1 January 1984 to 31 March of this year. The food items covered under this authorization are: wheat flour, rice, cooking oil, sugar, powdered milk, and tea.

The SDR Council of Ministers resolution that passed last night complements an earlier resolution passed on 29 December 1983 authorizing the direct importation of tankers and freight trucks.

These measures taken by the SDR Council of Ministers aim to save the country from the crisis expected to arise from the prolonged drought it is about to face.

Rebels Report 42 Government Troops Killed 27 Dec

EA042225 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] On 27 December 1983 the gallant fighters of the Somali National Movement, SNM, wing of the Somali opposition forces launched a major attack on the bases of the loyalist troops of Siad Barre regime at Tog Wajaale, (Ala Ibaday) and (Madal Wein). The attack launched by the SNM fighters resulted in 42 soldiers killed and many others wounded among the loyalist soldiers of Siad Barre. The courageous fighters of the SNM wing of the Somali opposition fighters also razed to the ground the police station, orientation center, and the residence of the commander of the forces stationed at (Ala Ibaday). The reports add that the fighters of the SNM occupied the places they overran during their attack at Tog Wajaale, (Ala Ibaday) and (Madal Wein).

CHAD

Radio Confirms Idriss Miskine Death 7 Jan

AB070832 Paris AFP in English 0826 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Ndjamena, Jan 7 (AFP) — Idriss Miskine, the foreign minister and second-ranking figure in Chad's government, died here today, state radio reported. Previous reports said Mr. Miskine, who was 35 years old, had died of acute malaria.

Mr. Miskine, who ranked behind President Hissein Habre, died only two days before a roundtable conference on Chad, organizedby the Organization of African Unity (OAU), is due to open in Addis Ababa.

Mr. Habre is expected to attend, but Mr. Miskine had said Thursday that the Chadian leader might not participate. He said only that the Chadian Government would be represented at the conference.

Mr. Miskine charged that "Libya and maybe the Soviet Union" were trying to torpedo the OAU-sponsored talks. He added that there were "enormous" concentrations of Libyan troops and Chadian rebels around Iriba in northeastern Chad, apparently poised for a fresh attack against Mr. Habre's forces before the conference opened Monday.

Born March 15, 1948 in Ndjamena, Mr. Miskine has for the past several years been Mr. Habre's closest collaborator. He has been foreign minister since October, [word indistinct] after in June of that year fighting alongside Mr. Habre in seizing Ndjamena from the forces of then-President Goukouni Oueddei.

Mr. Miskine studied electrical engineering in France and was transport minister in the government of President Felix Mallum in 1978. He left that post in 1979 to follow Mr. Habre, who had been prime minister but took up arms against the government.

France's Hernu Notes 'Small' Troop Movement

LD061435 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Chad's foreign minister has described as huge the concentration of forces and the movement of troops hostile to President Habre in the past few days in the Iriba region ofnortheastern Chad.

The French defense minister, who was speaking on the occasion of the traditional ceremony to convey New Year's good wishes to the press, admitted that there were troops hostile to President Habre in that region but only mentioned the existence of small movement, which does not directly threaten the French troops. Charles Hernu said that a Libyan plane which had lost its way and was flying over Ndjamena had recently been intercepted by the French Air Force and escorted out of Chadian air space. Lastly, Mr Hernu spoke of a new strategy employed by the French troops, namely "nomadization," that is to say, that the French troops no longer keep to the towns alone. They now effect sorties to get better acquainted with the terrain.

'Chadian Alliance' Proposes Settlement Plan

AB062125 Paris AFP in French 1234 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Paris, 6 Jan (AFP) — "The Chadian Alliance for Peace and Democracy" said in Paris on Friday that neither "the Ndjamena nor the Bardai governments" could solve the Chadian conflict alone. It therefore proposed a settlement plan including the creation of an international peace-keeping force for Chad. In a communique issued by the Alliance, which is comprised of Chadian personalities who are neither on the side of Hissein Habre nor on that of Goukouni Oueddei, called for a "political and fair solution excluding no one." Three days before the Addis Ababa roundtable conference on Chad, the Alliance proposes:

1. The setting up of a committee whose membership should take into account the "balance between the so-called moderate and progressive states," which would be charged with the application of the agreement that would result from the meeting, with the approval of the OAU.

2. The creation of an international peace-keeping force whose role would be to "disarm the various factions and the civilians," and to set up a "true national army."

3. The setting up of a transitional government for a period not exceeding 24 months that would be charged with preparing the new institutions. The head of government should be chosen "outside the group of faction leaders."

4. The setting up of a state council comprising "heads of factions and Chadian political personalities chosen by the leader of the transitional government."

5. The setting up of a national council in charge of drawing up a draft constitution. It would comprise members chosen by representative personalities on the basis of prefectoral representation.

The communique suggested that a special UN fund be created in order to finance the peace operation in Chad. Finally, the alliance asserted that the "essential role of France and Libya would be to favor the good running of the negotiations in association with the OAU."

The Chadian alliance for Peace and Democracy is headed in particular by Abdoulaye Lamana, former minister and Jean Bawoyeu Alingue, former ambassador to Paris.

Bardai: GUNT's Omar Interviewed on Trip

AB060735 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Interview granted to unidentified Bardai radio reporter by Ascheik Ibn Omar, minister of national defense and veterans affairs, in Bardai following a trip to Ethiopia and Madagascar; date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr Minister, you have just returned from a diplomatic mission to Addis Ababa and Antananarivo. To start with, what was the purpose of your trip to Addis Ababa?

[Omar] My visit to Addis Ababa was in relation to the impending meeting on national reconciliation scheduled to be held on 9 January 1984. More precisely, we had to define with the OAU General Secretariat the practical and administrative modalities for the organization of this important meeting.

As you know, President Mengistu, in his capacity as current OAU chairman, has played, and continues to play, an important role in all attempts aimed at finding a political solution to the Chadian conflict, in spite of all the obstacles set on the way to Chadian national reconciliation by both imperialist and, unfortunately, African countries. This is why I went to express on behalf of the Chadian political leadership our gratitude to Comrade Mengistu for his (?persistent) efforts. You know that we could not dissociate our gratitude from the deep appreciation of all the Chadian people who are looking forward to a peaceful life.

Also, on the purely political level, two questions had remained unanswered following my first meeting with the OAU mission. One of these questions was that of protocol. You know that the Ndjamena dictator, who has been noisily awakened by Charles (Descaux), is still nurturing the hope to be received at the upcoming conference in Addis Ababa as the only legitimate head of state of Chad. So this protocol business is not a mere wrangling about protocol arrangements. We had to make sure that when the meeting is convened we shall avoid any (?stalemate).

The second point is about the proposal we made once for the holding of a preparatory conference among various factions before the official meeting with a view to forestalling obstacles that might otherwise arise at the conference. That is, in a nutshell, the purpose of our mission to Addis Ababa.

[Reporter] Now for your visit to Antananarivo. (?What is the level of) our relations with the Republic of Madagascar?

[Omar] Because of the communication difficulties and the very long distance between our country and the Republic of Madagascar, our relations with the Malagasy people and President Ratsiraka are rather (?weak) and difficult. But this obstacle [words indistinct] does not prevent the Malagasy and the Chadian peoples from (?maintaining relations). During our stay in Antananarivo we held talks on Chadian problems [words indistinct]; and we realized how informed President Ratsiraka was about the situation in Chad and how anxious he was in the face of the various problems facing the Chadian people [words indistinct].

Meanwhile (?I) said that President Ratsiraka's role, though discrete, is very important for the various diplomatic efforts being made to solve the Chadian crisis.

Bardai: FAN Seeking To Delay OAU Meeting

AB062147 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Public servants, workers, traders, cattle breeders, farmers, students: If the efforts toward national reconciliation, which Chadians are praying for, yield fruit in early 1984, this will benefit all national productive forces.

Now, a few days before the opening of the meeting of the Chadian factions in Addis Ababa, after the usual (?hesitations) and especially on the instructions of their Western masters, the Ndjamena group — to general surprise — has begun to resort to delaying tactics because the upcoming conference — aimed at finding an equitable solution to the Chadian tragedy — is not taking into account the whims of the Ndjamena group. It has therefore decided to work toward the failure of the conference, following the directives of its mentors. Hissein Habre and his aides have taken the liberty of (?denouncing) the African diplomatic efforts which they had already described as diplomatic haggling.

In the face of their irresponsible attitude — to say the least — the various Chadian social sectors must voice their total condemnation.

Chadian revolutionary people, fighters, cadres, and commando units of the liberation: We have repeatedly stated that the FAN officials only talk of peace because they are forced to do so. In fact, they are only concerned about having their military revenge. This is why, following his talk with French Defense Minister Charles Hernu, the governor of Ndjamena [Hissein Habre] has changed his tune. In an arrogant tone caused by the promise of arms by his non-African masters, the FAN leader has just sent another challenge to the national and international opinion.

In view of this, you must take every measure in order to prevent the imperialist and reactionary forces from implementing their military plans aimed at sabotaging the salutary work undertaken by the OAU. Gallant fighters, cadres, and commando units of the liberation operating at all fronts, always keep this in mind: He who wants peace must be ready for war.

CONGO

Sassou-Nguesso Receives Message From Dos Santos

AB071050 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The head of state, Colonel Sassou-Nguesso, this morning received in audience at his residence Venancio da Silva Moura, Angola's deputy minister of foreign affairs. Present at the meeting were Pierre Nze, minister of foreign affairs, the presidential adviser on diplomatic affairs, and the Angolan ambassador to Congo.

At the end of the audience, the Angolan statesman told Moise Mvoungou that he came to deliver a message from Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to his Congolese counterpart, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

[Begin recording] [Moura, in French] Yes, we were received by Comrade President Denis Sassou-Nguesso to whom we delivered a personal message from Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. This is quite normal between us because we share the same views [words indistinct] within the framework of the solidarity existing between our two governments and parties. It is

quite normal for the heads of the two states to exchange envoys. Thus, as I said, we delivered a personal message fron one head of state to the other. We also briefed Col Denis Sassou-Nguesso on the prevailing situation in Angola, particularly after his visit to Luanda. There has been an increase in the attacks by racist South Africa, UNITA bandits and mercenaries against the People's Republic of Angola. [passage indistinct]

[Question by reporter] Your Excellency, the UN Security Council is examining today your complaints against South Africa. In view of the fact that most of the resolutions have remained dead letters, what can the people's Republic of Angola expect from the international community?

[Moura] Yes, you know that recently there was a Security Council resolution requesting the unconditional withdrawal of South African soldiers from Angola.

But considering the increase in the warmongering activities of racist South Africa, our Comrade Presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos once again decided to ask the Security Council as a matter of great urgency to make pertinent decisions.

As you mentioned, for the moment a whole series of UN resolutions and those of the Security Council in particular remain dead letters. We are expecting that this time, considering the support from almost all of the international community who voted for the recent resolutions, (?that some action will be taken). [passage indistinct]

What we have always demanded, which you already know, is the unconditional withdrawal of the South African soldiers who for the past 2 years have been occupying part of the Angolan territory in the southern province of Cunene. As you also know, the South Africans have been increasing their aggressions and have moved toward the north, where there is no presence of SWAPO soldiers.

Under the circumstances, it is not true that the South Africans are fighting the SWAPO soldiers; you may recall the recent incursions in the Huila, Moxico, and the Cuando-Cubango provinces where there have never been SWAPO soldiers. At present, these southern provinces are attacked and bombarded by the racist South African soldiers, which means that [words indistinct].

I must stress, however, that in spite of these warmongering activities of which South Africa has the upper hand only in air security, we have already destroyed South African planes and tanks. We have even taken prisoners. [end recording]

GABON

Communique on Italian Foreign Minister's Visit

AB061140 Paris AFP in French 0737 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Libreville, 6 Jan (AFP) — Italian Foreign Minister Guilio Andreotti left Libreville Thursday afternoon for Dakar, Senegal, after a 3-day official visit to Gabon. During his visit, Mr Andreotti was received in audience by Gabonese President Omar Bongo and Prime Minister Leon Mebiame. He also held talks with several members of the Gabonese Government including his Gabonese counterpart, Martin Bongo.

The Italian minister also went to Ndjole and Booue, in central and northeast Gabon where he visited the construction works of the trans-Gabon railroad which will cross Gabon by 1987.

According to a final communique, Italy and Gabon have expressed the desire to strengthen and diversify their cooperation. An agreement concerning the creation of a joint cooperation commission was also signed. The two parties expressed their readiness to finalize the general agreement on economic cooperation which has been under discussion for some months now.

The communique stressed that the priority sectors in which Gabon wants to develop its cooperation with Italy are mainly transport and communications, small and medium medium-sized enterprises, wood processing, agroindustry, and trade.

Gabon does not currently benefit from Italian assistance for development because of its gross national product per inhabitant ($3,810) [words indistinct]; Martin Bongo expressed the hope for a change in this situation.

Italy and Gabon expressed their concern over the deteriorating military situation in Namibia. They condemned the initiatives that retarded the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435, which provides the modalities for Namibia's accession to independence.

The two countries expressed their regret over [words indistinct] by the United States to [words indistinct] and they hoped "Washington would reconsider this decision."

They also hoped that rapid and appropriate solutions will be found to the Chadian and Western Saharan conflicts "under the auspices of African organizations." Finally, Gabon expressed satisfaction with Italy's positive contribution toward finding a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis.

GUINEA

Senegalese Minister Brings Message From Diouf

AB061200 Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Medoune Fall, Senegalese minister of armed forces, arrived in our capital this Friday at 1820 by a special flight of Senegal Airways. The Senegalese minister of armed forces, who brought a message from Brother Abdou Diouf, the Senegalese head of state, was met on arrival by Comrade General Lansana Diane, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of the People's Army; Comrade Diawa Balde, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of domestic trade; Gen Soya Conde, chief of Combined General Army Staff; and Mamadou Traore, deputy head of state protocol.

Minister Signs Cultural Protocol With USSR

AB081140 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0915 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] The USSR and the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea signed a protocol on cultural and scientific cooperation yesterday morning. The protocol, which was signed at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, was initialed by Comrade Mamadou Keita, a member of the Political Bureau and minister of higher education and scientific research, who was accompanied by his closest aides. The Soviet delegation at the signing ceremony was led by Ambassador Kitayev.

Speaking on this occasion the Soviet ambassador to our country praised the atmosphere of good cooperation which has always marked Soviet-Guinean relations. In reply, Comrade Mamadou Keita pledged Guinea's willingness to maintain loyal and sincere cooperation with all countries in the world on the basis of strict respect for the peoples' inalienable rights. Our minister also commended the Soviet Union for its frequently manifested positions in favor of the developing countries in general and the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea in particular.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Cabinet Holds Emergency Session Over Senegal Border

LD071948 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] President Nino Vieira of Guinea Bissau today chaired an emergency cabinet meeting to consider the situation on the border with Senegal. This follows the discovery by the Bissau authorities of foreign off-shore oil-prospecting platforms in waters under dispute between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Viktor Saude Maria has been sent to Dakar with a message from Bernardo Vieira to the Senegalese president.

LIBERIA

PRC Chairman Says No Plans To Reshuffle Cabinet

AB062210 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The Chairman of the People's Redemption Council, Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, says he has no plans to reshuffle the cabinet as it has been rumored. Speaking to reporters at Spriggs Payne Airfield shortly after his arrival from Grand Gedeh County, Dr Doe stressed that 1984 must be a year of accountability and responsibility for the progress of Liberia.

Trial of Alleged Coup Plotters Fails To Resume

AB052258 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] The trial of the 19 alleged coup plotters failed to resume today as scheduled at the [word indistinct] of the Special Military Tribunal at the Temple of Justice. According to our reporter, the trial, which was expected to commence this morning at 1000, was called off after several hours of deliberation in the office of the tribunal chairman, Major General A. Gayflor. There were no reasons given for the postponement but observers believe it was due to administrative and legal reasons.

This is the second week that the tribunal has failed to continue a smooth trial. Last week the trial came to a complete standstill and in an interview earlier this week, the chairman of the tribunal, Maj Gen Gayflor, said that the trial would commence on Wednesday without any interruption. Sources close to the military tribunal say the trial is expected to resume tomorrow morning at 1000.

NIGERIA

Names of Ministers To Be Announced 12-13 Jan

AB081153 Paris AFP in English 1135 GMT 8 Jan 84

[By Edward Poultney]

[Text] Lagos, Jan 8 (AFP) — Nigeria's new military administration is taking shape only slowly here, and according to a senior military source the names of ministers will be announced only on Thursday or Friday of the coming week.

In a separate development a reliable source said that a senior brigadier was in detention in a maximum security prison in Lagos after tipping off ousted President Shehu Shagari shortly before the successful military coup on new year's eve.

A second brigadier was shot dead when he went to inform Mr Shagari that he had been deposed.

The military source, who is closely associated with Nigeria's new rulers, said that several nominations to the country's ministerial

posts had already been decided but that discussions were continuing on the other appointments.

The government would consist mainly of civilians, he said.

Since the coup, which ended more than four years of democracy badly tarnished by corruption and mismanagement, Nigeria has been given three main institutions of government.

These are the 19-member Supreme Military Council chaired by head of state Major-General Muhammadu Buhari, the National Council of States, which groups the military governors of the 19 federated states, and the Federal Executive Council, the ministers whose names are still to be announced.

The source said that the military authorities now knew that three of the people sought in connection with corruption investiations had fled the country.

These were two senior officials of Mr Shagari's National Party (NPN), Adisa Akinloye and Umaru Dikco, and former Senate President Joseph Wayas, also an NPN member.

Meanwhile it was learnt that Brigadier Bello Kaliel, commander [words indistinct] after the coup and is now in military custody.

Brig. Kaliel, like several members of the new administration, was a member of the previous military government which handed the country back to civilian rule in 1979. He was said to have tipped off Mr Shagari just before the coup nine days ago was launched.

A message from the brigadier, based in Lagos, reached the former president in Abuja, the new capital being built in the centre of the country, shortly before another brigadier (?went) to inform Mr Shagari that the army had taken over.

Brigadier Ibrahim Bako was shot dead by one of Mr Shagari's guards, and has since been buried in the northern town of Kaduna at a ceremony attended by many members of the ruling Military Council.

An army captain who fired the fatal shot is also in detention.

Meanwhile reports from Nigeria's western border, with the Republic of Benin, said that the normally flourishing smuggling and black marketeering had vanished since the coup.

Teams of soldiers had dispersed the smugglers who usually thrived there. Formerly bustling border towns were deserted, and even canoes had stopped plying the coastal la[illegible]on [words indistinct] the border because of the tight army guard.

FMG Puts Former Officials, Citizens on 'Wanted' List

AB061851 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The following persons have been declared wanted by the Federal Military Government. They are Joseph Wayas, former president of the Senate; Ralph Obihora, former member of the House of Representatives; Ishaku Ibrahim, a Lagos businessman; and Bello Maitama Yusuf, former minister of commerce. In a statement in Lagos today, the Nigerian police called upon anybody who sees any of them to contact the Force CID [Criminal Investigation Department], Alagbon Close, Ikoyi, telephone 6036000, or the nearest police station. The police warned that anyone found harboring any of the wanted persons will be punished by the Federal Military Government.

Former Bauchi Minister Sought

AB071310 Lagos NAN in English 1030 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Bauchi, Jan 7 (NAN) — Former Minister of Internal Affairs Alhaji Ibrahim Tahir has been declared a wanted person by the Bauchi police command, the state commissioner of police, Alhaji Hamza Katsina, said yesterday.

In an interview with the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) Alhaji Hamza said that the former minister had not reported to the police as directed. He said that 65 politicians and political appointees in Bauchi had so far reported to the police and that those who had reported included three former ministers, three political advisers, 19 commissioners and 20 members of the defunct State House of Assembly.

The former ministers are Alhaji Hamed Musa, Alhaji Magaji Ma'azu and Alhaji Bello Kirfi.

The police commissioner also directed all politicians and political appointees to submit their passports to the police command before Monday.

Niger Police Forbid Departures

AB051518 Lagos NAN in English 1511 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Minna, Jan. 5 (NAN) — The Niger police commissioner, Alhaji Raheem Laleye, today in Minna ordered that no political office holder should be allowed to go out of the state.

Addressing police officers in the state, Alhaji Laleye said that the order was in compliance with the directives of the Federal Military Government. He said that the new government had taken the police into confidence to ensure operational control.

The commissioner called on the officers to rededicate themselves to duty and show good examples to their juniors. Alhaji Laleye said that the Federal Military Government was concerned about the restoration of discipline and public confidence in the police.

He urged all policemen in the state to be punctual and devoted to duty adding that public confidence could be restored in that "proven integrity and accountability should be glaringly displayed in your performances", he said.

Ogun Military List Wanted

AB080900 Lagos NAN in English 0851 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Abeokuta Jan 7 (NAN) — The Ogun military government today in Abeokuta declared seven persons in the state wanted.

The seven persons, according to a statement signed by the Military Governor Col. Oladipo Diya area:

Dr. Gbolahan Ashiru, Chief S.A. Otubanjo, Chief Olu Awotesu, Mrs Morenike Onanuga, Mr. Awojobi (former chief whip), Chief N. Kotoye and Chief Adaramaja.

In another development, all the thirty local government chairmen in Ogun were today ordered by the military government to report to the state police commissioner of police on Monday January 9 at 8 a.m. According to the statement the chairmen were expected to bring with them three passport photographs and their ordinary and official passports.

Oyo Police Seek Akinloye

AB060805 Lagos NAN in English 0740 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Ibadan, Jan 6 (NAN) — The Oyo state police commissioner, Nuhu Aliyu, said today that his men yesterday combed Bodija area of Ibadan in search of the national chairman of the banned NPN [National Party of Nigeria] chief, Adisa Akinloye.

Speaking to newsmen in his office in the state capital, Nuhu Aliyu said that the search followed a hint that Chief Akinloye was still hiding in a residence in Bodija. He added that the search did not yield any positive result, and he therefore appealed to anyone who knew his hiding abode to contact the police.

Mr Nuhu said the police were grateful to newsmen for their cooperation, which he said helped to get most of the politicians they were looking for.

The NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA correspondent who went to the police headquarters today said that the premises was fuller, with more wanted persons who had come to report themselves. The commonest document seized from all categories of persons was an international passport.

Yesterday the acting commissioner of police included close relations and associates of politicians who had held key posts in the former governments among the people that should report.

Brigadier Killed in Abuja Buried With Full Honors

AB061705 Lagos NAN in English 1700 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Kaduna, Jan 6 (NAN) — The remains of late Brigadier Ibrahim Bako, who was killed last Saturday at Abuja while trying to arrest ousted President Shagari, were buried in Kaduna today. Correspondents of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) report that the late brigadier was buried with full military honours at the military cementary in Kaduna.

The corpse of late Brigadier Bako was conveyed to the graveyard by members of the Supreme Military Council (SMC), governors and senior military officers, amidst thousand of mourners. Earlier, the chief imam of Kaduna, Malam Modibbo, led a large crowd of Muslims in prayers for the repose of the soul of the late Bako at Sultan Bello Mosque.

Meetings of Former Servicemen in Benue Banned

AB061049 Lagos NAN in English 1005 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Makurdi, Jan 6 (NAN) — All meetings and assemblies of ex-servicemen in Benue have been banned until further notice, a radio announcement made yesterday by the 31st Airborne Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Makurdi, said.

The announcement, which was signed by Capt Sopomi on behalf of the brigade commander, said that the army is worried by the threat to peace in the state by [words indistinct] indisciplined ex-servicemen."

The brigade said that it would take severe disciplinary action against any ex-serviceman who violated the ban.

Commenting on the ban, a spokesmen for the legion of ex-servicemen in the state, Mr Innocent Korinya, denied that members of the legion had become a threat to peace in the state.

Mr Korinya, who said he was the acting secretary of the legion, stated that the ex-servicemen had been portrayed in a bad light before [words indistinct] by its chairman, Major (Rtd) Joseph Mayanga. he (?said that the legion) had consequently passed a vote of no confidence in the chairman and called for his removal from office. According to him, the legion had written to the new military government in the state demanding Major Mayange's removal.

Newly Appointed Governors Take Up Posts

AB061225 Lagos NAN in English 1155 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 6 (NAN) — Many of the newly appointed military governors have started arriving at their states of posting.

At exactly 12.30 p.m. yesterday, the governor of Kaduna, Air Commodore Usman Muazu, in company of four other governors, arrived in Kaduna. The other governors, Brig Sani Sami, Bauchi; and Air Commodore Hamza Abdullahi, Kano, also assumed duty yesterday.

They were met on arrival by senior military and police officers, permanent secretaries and heads of parastatals.

A NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) correspondent at the airport reported that police outriders which were dispatched to the airport earlier to escort the governors were later asked to go away.

The Ondo State military governor, Commodore Michael Otiko, also assumed duty yesterday in Akure. The governor was met on arrival in the state capital by the state police commissioner, Ahmed Sheidu. He later held a closed-door meeting with top government officials, the deji of Akure, Oba Adelegan Adesida, and the commanding officer of the 19th Mechanised Battalion, Lt Col Emmanuel Balagbogbo.

Also yesterday, the Bendel Military governor, Brig Jeremiah Useni, arrived in Benin. Brig Useni flew into the city at about 1:26 p.m. and was met by Maj Illiasu Kogi, who represented the

commander of the 4th Mechanised Brigade, Brig James Onoja.

Others who were at the airport included Air Commodore Francis Mokunogho, the state's chief judge, Mr Justice Eliah Ekeruche, and permanent secretaries in the state's Civil Service. The governor was expected to visit the oba of Benin and the Benin market which was gutted by fire on New Year's Day.

In another development, the military governor of Ogun, Col Oladipo Diya, said yesterday in Abeokuta that the task before his administration was numerous and required careful studying and planning.

The governor, who paid a courtesy call on the alake of Egbaland, Oba Oyegbade Lipede, said that the regime recognised the importance of traditional rulers because they were "the custodians of traditional customs." Col Diya pointed out that he realised the need to consult traditional rulers for advice when necessary.

Responding, Oba Lipede urged the new government to strive to satisfy the aspirations of the people. He suggested that journalists should always ensure accuracy in whatever they reported on the new administration, adding that misquotations and misrepresentations of facts were likely to endanger government's reputation.

A traditional ruler, believed to have come from the governor's hometown, was prevented from seing the governor.

The governor, who held a meeting with permanent secretaries and general managers of corporations, declined interviews by journalists. He is expected to make a broadcast to the people of the state today.

FMG Reminds Parties 7-Day Ultimatum Elapsing

AB062051 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The Federal Military Government has reminded all those responsible for the rendering of accounts of property belonging to the banned political parties of the 7-day ultimatum given them. The ultimatum was issued on 31 December 1983, the same day the ban order on political parties came into effect. In a statement issued today in Lagos, the Federal Government said in pursuance of its objectives the police have been directed to seize any political party vehicle found plying the roads. It warned that political party functionaries at the local level will be held responsible for any discrepancy discovered between the record of property declared by the proscribed parties and what the police came up with at the local level.

It will be recalled that the accounts of the six registered political parties were frozen and property belonging to them forfeited to the Federal Military Government.

Issuance, Renewal of Passports Suspended

AB061708 Lagos NAN in English 1544 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Maiduguri, Jan 6 (NAN) — Renewal of old and issuance of new passports have been suspended indefinitely, following directives from the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs to all passport offices in the country yesterday.

A reliable sources close to the passport office in Maiduguri told a correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) today that the message directed that issuance of passports should be suspended until further notice and those brought for renewal should be withheld. The source said that the message did not indicate the reason for the action but only stressed that the new order should be strictly complied with.

Earlier, a combined team of army and the police has visited the State Passport Office in the company of the 21st Armored Brigade commander, Col Joshua Dogon Yaro, and the state commissioner of police, Alhaji Tahiru Jidda, who held short discussions with the senior passport officer, Alhaji Ababa Gana.

Oil Glut Seen Causing Decline in Exports Since 1980

AB060905 Lagos NAN in English 0840 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 5 (NAN) — Nigeria's exports to 22 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has been on the decline from 1980 to the first six months of 1983, a special report on Nigeria made available to the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) has shown.

The report, by the *AFRICA ECONOMIC DIGEST (AED)*, for the month of December showed that Nigeria's export trade which totalled 60.6 billion naira in the period under review declined from N17.7 billion in 1980 to N10.9 billion in the first six months of last year. It showed that the import trade amounted to N29.6 billion with the highest volume of imports worth N10.4 billion being recorded in 1981.

The U.S. remained Nigeria's highest export trade partner by absorbing goods, mainly oil, worth N21.4 billion, followed by West Germany (N5.47 billion). Nigeria's imports from the U.S. were worth N3.2 billion, taking her to the fifth position in import trade relations with the OECD.

The U.K., which placed seventh with N1 billion imports from Nigeria, took first position in value of goods it exported to Nigeria valued at N6.3 billion.

Japan, however, had in its favour the highest trade surplus with Nigeria. The report showed that during the period under review, Japan bought goods worth only N34.9 million from Nigeria while it exported products worth N3.8 billion to Nigeria.

The report attributed the downward trend in the volume of Nigeria's trade to foreign exchange shortages arising from reduced earnings from a glutted oil market.

SENEGAL

Italy's Andreotti Meets With Diouf, Ministers

AU071359 Rome ANSA in English 0820 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text](ANSA) Dakar, January 7 — A private one-hour encounter with President Abdou Diouf, and over three hours of talks with Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti's official visit to Senegal. [sentence as received]

Andreotti, who arrived in Dakar Thursday night from Gabon, also met Friday with Health Minister Mamadou Dioup, presenting him with ten "Fiat-Campagnola" vans equipped as ambulances and capable of travelling over desert trails. (The vehicles were a gift of the Italian Government as part of its 140-million-dollar "country program" in Senegal).

Italian aid is of vital importance to Senegal, which is undergoing a serious crisis.

Drought has badly damaged the cereal and nut crops this year, which are the chief source of national wealth.

Fifty kilometers from the capital, the desert's advance can be seen with the naked eye.

Andreotti was told that in other countries, foreign aid is used to improve the quality of life. In Senegal it is used to ward off death.

Italian aid to Senegal's development and bilateral economic cooperation were the focus of the talk Andreotti had with President Diouf, a technocrat who personally studies all reports. Matters of international politics were also discussed in depth.

Senegalese leaders appeared to Andreotti to be working ever more actively on a diplomatic level to make Senegal a truly nonaligned nation.

Diouf confirmed the role Senegalese diplomacy intends to play as an Islamic nation, for a solution to the Iranian-Iraqi conflict and to the situation in Eritrea.

Given the recent contacts Andreotti has had in Syria, Jordan, and Israel, a review of the Mideast situation, and that of the Palestinians, in particular, was especially thorough.

Senegal recently chaired the Geneva conference on the rights of the Palestinian people and takes part in the UNIFIL force in southern Lebanon.

Diouf voiced appreciation for the presence of an Italian contingent in the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut.

The Italian premier [as received], in turn, voiced appreciation for Senegal's nonaligned stance. Both he and Diouf agreed on the need to work for Lebanese reconciliation and to relaunch the Palestinian negotiations. With regard to the situation in Chad, both sides voiced the hope that progress would be made at the imminent meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

President Diouf and Foreign Minister Niasse said they considered Italy's development cooperation policy farsighted and consistent and that Italy's relationship with the African nations was based on two essential principles: the need to overcome any trace of colonialism or neo-colonialism, and to combat underdevelopment as a serious factor of instability.

In February, a joint Italo-Senegalese committee on economic cooperation will be meeting in Rome.

Well-defined projects have already been put together in such sectors as fishing, hydraulics and health.

Andreotti winds up his official visit to Dakar today.

Foreign Minister Reviews Trip

AU071947 Rome ANSA in English 1936 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Excerpt] (ANSA) [no place name as received] January 7 — At the conclusion of five days in black Africa where he visited Gabon and Senegal, Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti said here today that Italy would seek to give top priority to African problems.

He lamented the fact that many countries in dealing with the Third World have sought to supply weapons rather than aid to true development and thus have only encouraged many African nations to waste their resources.

The minister said that the so-called North-South dialogue (between the developing and the industrialized countries) is too often detached from the East-West dialogue. He also noted that in talking of North-So[illegible]n reality the dialogue has actually been between the n[illegible] and the South, insofar as overtures made by the Weste[illegible]ustrialized countries to nations in the Eastern bloc to take concerted action on behalf of Third World development have gone unheeded.

Andreotti said he hoped the present low point to which East-West ties had dropped can be raised at the coming Stockholm conference.

During his five days in Africa, the Italian diplomatic chief had talks with Gabon's head of state Omar Bongo and Senegal's President Abdou Diouf, as well as the foreign ministers of these two countries. During a stopoff at the Abidjan airport Andreotti was also able to meet with Ivory Coast Foreign Minister Simeon Ake.

Andreotti said his contacts in Africa had been very positive and that he had been able to study political, economic and development cooperation problems in black Africa in depth.

On a political plane, he said that the leaders he met with had voiced strong disappointment for the delay in Namibia's independence which is seen as the last stage in the decolonization of Africa.

With regard to other hotspots, such as Chad, the former Spanish Sahara, Nigeria and Tunisia, Andreotti said that although events

in those countries gave cause for concern, he did not have the impression that the situation was explosive.

17 Seen Seeking To 'Destabilize' Guinea Arrested

AB091145 Paris AFP in French 1038 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Dakar, 9 Jan (AFP) — A group of 17 'mercenaries' including 15 from Guinea-Bissau and 2 Senegalese who were going to take part in an "attempt to destabilize" Guinean President Sekou Toure's regime were arrested last week at Kolda (southern Senegal) along with 3 Guineans who had recruited them, the Dakar daily *LE SOLEIL* announced on Monday.

The group, reportedly linked with some Guinean opposition members, was due to undergo military training "somewhere in West Africa, outside Senegal" with a view to destabilizing Guinea, the paper added. The men, who were riding in two light trucks, were arrested by Senegalese gendarmes during a routine patrol. According to the paper, a man called Lamine Bah is in charge of the recruitment acting on behalf of members of the opposition to President Sekou Toure. He had been given 2 million CFA to fund the operation.

LE SOLEIL believes that all the persons arrested will stand trial before the Senegalese state security court.

SIERRA LEONE

President Stevens Appeals for Clemency for Shagari

AB052249 Paris AFP in French 1642 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Freetown, 5 Jan (AFP) — Sierra Leonian head of state Siaka Stevens sent a message on Wednesday to new Nigerian head of state General Muhammadu Buhari urging that "no harm be done" to former President Shehu Shagari.

In the message quoted Thursday by Sierra Leonian radio, President Stevens appeals to President Buhari for "clemency and understanding."

Meanwhile Freetown's independent newspaper *THE NEW CITIZEN* has strongly condemned the military coup d'etat. The paper holds the view that "Nigeria is a nation which has given Africa a certain credit thanks to the efforts achieved in the field of democracy" and that it "does not deserve to be ruled by men who have received no mandate to govern it."

TOGO

Senegalese Minister Delivers Message From Diouf

AB080811 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Senegalese Armed Forces Minister Medoune Fall delivered today to President Gnassingbe Eyadema a message of friendship and high regards from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. The ceremony took place at an audience at the Presidential Palace in Lome. Also present at the audience was Interior Minister Kpotivi Lacle. Here is the statement made by the Senegalese envoy after his audience with the head of state.

[Begin recording] I have come to see President Eyadema, to whom I delivered a message from his brother and friend, President Abdou Diouf. It was a message of friendship and high esteem. As you know, discussions with President Eyadema have been very interesting and comforting. During the discussions, we touched on regional and African issues. He expressed some views which are particularly interesting and I will have to wait until I return to Senegal to report to President Abdou Diouf and to explain to him President Eyadema's opinion and views on issues affecting our subregion and Africa as a whole. You will therefore permit me to inform my head of state on the discussions that we have just held — President Eyadema and myself — before anybody else. The only thing I can say now is that the discussions were very interesting and comforting. We discussed several issues.

[Unidentified reporter] We learned from the press that your country recently had a problem pertaining to state security. Currently, according to the press, there is calm; but how long will this calm last and how do the Senegalese authorities plan to solve this problem?

[Fall] As you know, in Senegal we have a specific political set-up which is totally different from that of other african countries. We have 15 political parties that are well known. Out of these 15 political parties there are 8 Marxist-Leninist parties. Out of the eight Marxist-Leninist parties there are 4 Trotskiyite parties. As a result of tais, there are quite a few different political views in Senegal. What is currently going on in Casamance has several causes. In the first place, we have the particularities of the people of Casamance, just as in my home we have the specialities of the Fleuve region, the Serrer region and of the other ethnic groupings in Senegal. We do not have two [word indistinct] as it is in some regions, but at any rate we have some ethnic groups.

In the Casamance region, there is an ethnic group which thinks that it is special and has the right to single itself out from the rest of the people of Senegal. These people number 80,000 out of 6 million inhabitants of Senegal. If a preponderant place is given to an ethnic group which only numbers 80,000 people, we will no longer know where we are heading to. Therefore, for us, it is a problem of national unity. We are of the opinion that national unity should not be determined by ethnic grouping or by regions. It is all the Senegalese people that form the country of Senegal and not regional considerations. This is why President Abdou Diouf was very firm on this problem of maintaining territorial integrity. This problem was very much inflated, especially by the international press. But events that took place in Casamance were not as serious as the international press claimed them to be. It is true that there was a problem and we are solving it and I think that we will finish it soon. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Defense Communique: RSA Escalating Invasion

MB090728 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Communique issued by the Ministry of Defense on 8 January]

[Text] The invading racist South African troops are continuing to violate our country's borders and attack members of the public and our military units stationed in southern Angola, thus challenging international public opinion and rejecting the UN Security Council resolution which condemned racist South Africa and called for the immediate withdrawal of its forces from the territory of the People's Republic of Angola.

Since launching its act of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola on 14 December 1983, its attacks have escalated in numbers of troops involved and scale, and today it has reached the dimensions of an actual invasion of the territory of the People's Republic of Angola.

In its fantastic and hypocritical communiques, the South African racist government has attempted to portray itself as the victim of aggression and not the aggressor, and has alleged that its troops on the territory of the People's Republic of Angola were attacked by Angola, Cuban, SWAPO, and Soviet troops, thus shamelessly misleading international public opinion and trying to justify the losses it has suffered to internal opinion in South Africa.

Thus, after more than 20 days of attacks with infantry, tanks, and other armored vehicles, and with constant strafings and bombings, using more than 30 aircraft and helicopters, against the township of Cuvelai, located over 200 km from the southern border — and defended by the 11th Infantry Brigade, which had already caused the enemy great human and material losses in manpower and weapons, including four AML-90 armored cars, three tanks, three planes, and one helicopter — the racist South African Army on 4 January carried out a full-scale attack on our forces in that area. Massive use was made of armored vehicles and airplanes, and bombs containing toxic gases were dropped, killing and wounding an undetermined number of people. New combat (?methods) and techniques were also (?employed).

On 7 January at about 1700, the Caiundo township in Cuando Cubango Province was also the target of an intense bombing raid by (?11) aircraft of the South African Air Force, killing an undetermined number of people, including four soldiers, and wounding six others among our forces defending that area.

[Signed] Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, minister of defense.

Luanda Raps RSA Refusal of SWAPO Cease-fire Offer

MB071050 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] SWAPO has expressed its readiness to sign a cease-fire with the Pretoria regime on the basis of the proposal made recently by the Angolan president, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

In a letter addressed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, SWAPO President Sam Nujoma agreed to the cease-fire proposal for a period of 30 days beginning 31 January. [passage indistinct] To prove that these wishes of South Africa were mere political propaganda, the Pretoria rulers rejected the peace proposal. The most publicized demands were not even mentioned by Pretoria, which simply stated that it was carrying out actions in Angola in order to punish SWAPO terrorists. The already stale demands — such as the presence in Angola of the Cuban internationalist troops and the Angolan people's support for SWAPO combatants — were not mentioned, for the Pretoria rulers will certainly look for more pretexts to delay Namibia's accession to independence. As a matter of fact, another excuse is already being formulated, according to it: The populations of Namibia are being protected from SWAPO's terrorist attacks, and the so-called Namibian sovereignty, which has been usurped by the racist Pretoria regime, is being safeguarded.

Pretoria's decision to reject the Angolan proposal was condemned by the representatives of 10 countries who spoke at the UN Security Council debate which wound up in New York yesterday. During the debate South Africa was condemned for its attacks on the People's Republic of Angola and the continued occupation of part of the sovereign territory of the People's Republic of Angola.

On this subject, South Africa's true designs were once again denounced at a press conference given in New York by the permanent representative of the People's Republic of Angola at the United Nations, Elisio de Figueiredo. The Angolan diplomat told foreign journalists that Pretoria's only intention is to destabilize the people's power in Angola and delay — for as long as it can — Namibia's accession to independence.

It is evident that the social, economic, and political transformations being carried out in Angola under the leadership of the MPLA-Labor Party are not to South Africa's taste, inasmuch as it would not like to see the end of its domination over Namibia, said the Angolan diplomat, who added that the enemy is wrong in his calculations and he will be defeated, for the Angolan people will be able to defend their gains.

In his speech to the UN Security Council, Elisio de Figueiredo, having reviewed the events which have taken place since 12 December of last year in southern Angola, said that the Angolan delegation not only expects a new written condemnation but also a concrete response which might (?please) the Angolan people. This position was immediately supported by the nonaligned countries, which called for the immediate application of efficient measures against South Africa if its authorities disregarded the UN resolutions.

While the UN Security Council meeting was under way, a white paper prepared by the Angolan Ministry of Foreign Affairs was released. It contains detailed reports of the crimes committed by the South African regular army against the Angolan people. The white paper also constitutes an appeal to the international community to implement the overdue general and compulsory sanc-

tions on the racist Pretoria regime in order to end the barbaric and criminal actions against the People's Republic of Angola. The white paper states that the aggression against the People's Republic of Angola and the constant violations of its sovereignty and territorial integrity are the continuation of a policy which began with the collapse of Portuguese domination in southern Africa.

Soviet Statement on Solidarity With Luanda Noted

AB080944 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The Soviet Union has expressed its combat solidarity with our country in the face of the undeclared war imposed by racist South Africa, in a statement published by the Soviet news agency TASS.

The racist South Africans operate in connivance with the Reagan administration, which has arrogated to itself the right to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and peoples and to proclaim different regions of the world as zones of vital interest, stated [name indistinct], president of the Angolan League of Friendship and Solidarity With the Peoples, to the Soviet agency TASS. TASS stresses in its statement that the Pretoria regime could not act in such a provocative and shameless manner if it were not for the substantial support provided by the Reagan administration.

Soviet Envoy Reiterates Support, Condemns RSA

MB061936 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The Soviet Union is continuing to express its solidarity with the Angolan people and its condemnation of the war of aggression being waged by South Africa against the People's Republic of Angola.

In an interview given to ANGOP in Luanda today, Arnold Kalinin, the Soviet Union's ambassador to Angola, stated that with the support of the United States and other Western powers Pretoria has been committing the most horrible crimes against the Angolan people. The Soviet diplomat reiterated his country's support for the people of Angola in opposing the enemy's attacks and in achieving the reconstruction of their fatherland, which has been devastated by war, so that peace can effectively be achieved in the country.

BOTSWANA

Government Urges U.S. To Remain in UNESCO

MB061620 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 6 Jan 84

["Commentary" prepared by the Botswana Department of Information and Broadcasting]

[Text] The decision by the United States of America to pull out of UNESCO by the end of this year is regrettable. It could not have come at a worse period, when the north-south dialogue is at a delicate stage and developing countries are remolding their fragile economies in the wake of a crippling recession. It is a decision that is bound to have ripples far beyond the headquarters of the organization.

Among many countries which will feel the pinch is Botswana, which has been (?playing host) to a good number of UNESCO-sponsored cultural, educational, informational, and scientific projects. Besides the result of the American move, science and technical assistance are in short supply. As this is what is most likely to happen, some of these projects might have to be downgraded, or, worse still, brought to a halt.

It is in this context that we fully appreciate the deep disappointment voiced by the chairman of the national commission of UNESCO in Botswana yesterday over the decision. He said: As a major contributor, America's withdrawal would have far-reaching implications for the viability of UNESCO projects. He was still optimistic that those in UNESCO would find a way to persuade the United States to rescind its decision.

In announcing its withdrawal from UNESCO last week, the United States said it had been concerned that trends in policy, ideological emphasis, budgets, and management of UNESCO were detracting from the organization's effectiveness, and that these trends led UNESCO away from the original principles of its constitution. That the United States was deeply worried by a gradual drift toward leftist inclinations within the organization is no secret. A White House statement referred to UNESCO as a comfortable home for pro-Soviets and static debate and ideological polemics.

It must be recognized that UNESCO, like any international organization, assembles countries of varying ideological and political persuasions. It is apparent that the aggregate of forces within UNESCO may not have gone along with the views of the United States Government, but the Soviet Union also had its own share of disagreements with many other member states.

Whatever the case, the objective in international fora is to arrive at a consensus, the makings of which are not always found without spirited debate. It would be unfortunate if member states would now attach more importance to the debate itself to the extent that it is an end in itself. We note with some hope that the United States has offered to continue to work harmoniously with UNESCO. The important aspect of the offer is found in the belief that the United States is, indeed, open to suggestions and could be persuaded not to follow through on its decision. It is never late to mend fences.

We, therefore, urge everyone within UNESCO, including in particular the United States, to work hard toward bridging the gap. After all, it is not only that the United States is a powerful country whose participation in UNESCO affairs is almost essential, but that we are as a whole mankind, and none of us should be encouraged to live in isolation.

MADAGASCAR

Minister Meets With U.S. Envoy on UNESCO Decision

MB081130 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Bruno Rakotomavo, minister of information, ideological orientation, and cooperatives, met yesterday with (David Russell), charge d'affaires ad interim of the U.S. Embassy in Madagascar. The American diplomat handed the minister a copy of a note on the U.S. Government's position regarding its dispute with UNESCO, a dispute that (?threatens) to bring a suspension of America's contribution to the Organization's funds which, he said, represents about 25 percent of UNESCO's budget. The United States, he went on, defends the free circulation of information worldwide.

The Malagasy information minister explained in reply the position of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar on the new international information order, which is the heart of the matter in the dispute between the United States and UNESCO. As far as we are concerned, we do not want to curb the freedom of circulation of information, but we want to correct the imbalances which exist today in this field, Minister Rakotomavo said. As a matter of fact, he said, our news media are flooded with news from the north. This means that they are flooded with news from the developed countries and never the other way around — from south to north.

The news media of the developed countries are only interested in the political upheavals and disturbances and never in the achievements of the developing countries. We are against the distortion of information about developing countries by the news media of the developed countries aimed at serving certain interests or defending certain ideas.

The minister of information cited the case of a reporter of *THE NEW YORK TIMES* who came to Madagascar last year and distorted the statements of senior Malagasy officials whom he met. We are, in fact, in favor of exchanging information with all countries. It is in this sense that we are very interested in direct exchanges of information among the developing countries in the context of the press agencies of the nonaligned countries and those of the Pan African Press Agency. We also want to receive coordinated, first-hand information on the developing countries, but not always through the press agencies of those countries.

In conclusion, the minister of information, ideological orientation, and cooperatives expressed wholehearted wishes for success to the American diplomat, who replied that he would like to see Minister Bruno Rakotomavo make the visit he has been expected to pay to the United States at the invitation of the U.S. Government.

The permanent secretary in the Ministry of Information, Ideological Orientation, and Cooperatives, (Michel Marambazake), and the head of information services attended the meeting.

MOZAMBIQUE

FRG Condemnation of RSA Angola Incursion Noted

MB060959 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Maputo distributed a communique to the press today in which it says that the Government of the FRG openly condemns once again the new escalation of aggression by the racist regime of Pretoria against the People's Republic of Angola, which has resulted in hundreds of civilians being killed and injured and in the destruction of economic and social infrastructures. According to the communique, the FRG Government condemns these criminal acts by Pretoria and supports the UN Security Council resolution approved in August 1981 which condemned the partial occupation of southern Angola by Pretoria and demanded the immediate withdrawal of the invaders.

Chissano Receives Invitation to Nordic Meeting

MB061830 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] In Maputo Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano has received an invitation from the Nordic countries, addressed to the Frontline States, to take part in a consultative meeting on the political situation in southern Africa. The invitation, received on Wednesday, according to *NOTICIAS*, was drafted by the foreign ministers of Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.

Minister Joaquim Chissano has praised this initiative by the Nordic countries, which also gave their support to the Mozambican people during the armed struggle for national liberation.

The meeting, set for 26 and 27 April 1984, will also discuss the support and assistance to be given by the Nordic countries to the Frontline States and the SADCC countries, as well as the measures to be adopted by those European countries against the racist South African regime.

Inhambane To Receive $48 Million in UN Aid

MB071207 Maputo Domestic Service in Portugese 0430 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Inhambane Province is going to receive $48 million in assistance from the United Nations. Part of this is for the drought victims and the other part for the development of small projects in the province. This news was revealed on 5 January at a meeting chaired by Minister of Health Pascoal Mocumbi following a working visit he made to the province. Pascoal Mocumbi praised the efforts made by the provincial government's efforts to help the drought victims, which helped reduce the death rate over the past few months.

NAMIBIA

Van Niekerk: 'Door Open' for Talks With SWAPO

MB091021 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1005 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Windhoek, Jan 9, SAPA — Constructive talks would be possible with SWAPO if the movement committed itself to a peace process and relinquished violence in SWA/Namibia, the administrator-general, Dr Willie van Niekerk, said today.

"During my talks with political parties of SWA/Namibia last year, I have made it clear that my door is always open for deliberations with any party or institution which has an essential interest in working out a peaceful and stable future for the territory," Dr van Niekerk told SAPA in a statement.

"If SWAPO ceases its pointless acts of violence and terrorism in the north of the territory and identifies itself with that objective (peace and stability), constructive talks will be possible."

Dr van Niekerk was approached for comment on reports about SWAPO request to the United Nations secretary-general, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, to arrange a ceasefire with South Africa.

The foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, said at the weekend his government would not be opposed to direct truce negotiations between SWAPO and a delegation headed by Dr van Niekerk.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Dr Dirk Mudge, said SWAPO should be prepared to talk to interested parties in SWA/Namibia. "SWAPO should realise there are other important parties in the countries who are also involved," Mr Mudge said in a statement from Swakopmund that was published today. It would not help SWAPO, "because it is under pressure," to negotiate with South Africa at the exclusion of other parties in SWA/Namibia. Discussions between SWAPO and other interested parties should be on an equal footing, Mr Mudge added.

SWAPO Said Calling on UN To Arrange Cease-fire

MB061630 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The SWAPO terrorist organization in South-West Africa/Namibia has asked the secretary general of the United Nations, Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar, to arrange a cease-fire between it and the South African Defense Forces through direct talks. A message to this effect from the president of SWAPO, Mr Sam Nujoma, was delivered to Dr Perez de Cuellar while the UN Security Council was debating South Africa's temporary military presence in southern Angola. The request by SWAPO follows an offer made by South Africa last month to withdraw its troops from Angola provided that the Angolan Government stopped permitting SWAPO attacks against South-West Africa/Namibia from its territory and neither SWAPO nor the Angolans exploited the situation.

Although SWAPO has asked for direct talks, the South African Government has stated on many occasions that it does not recognize SWAPO as representing the people of South-West Africa/Namibia and has consistently refused to negotiate with it.

SOUTH AFRICA

SADF Begins Withdrawal From Angola 'Battle Areas'

MB081214 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1151 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Johannesburg, Jan 8, SAPA — South African security forces began their withdrawal from battle areas of southern Angola today, following what defence authorities termed a successful operation against SWAPO guerrilla bases.

A statement by the minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, said the South African troops had disrupted SWAPO logistic and command bases and that more than a thousand guerrillas had fled north following the offensive. He said a withdrawal had commenced — after a month of fighting. The defence minister warned SWAPO that if the South African Defence Force found it necessary, firm action would again be taken, "regardless of the consequences." He added that SWAPO had not yet experienced the full capability of its prowess.

The chief of staff operations, Lieutenant General Ian Gleeson, told a news conference yesterday that the SADF had "succeeded in dispersing the SWAPO build-up, disrupting their preparations for infiltration of SWA/Namibia, and turned back the spearhead of their advance."

Today's Ministry statement said it shared international opinion that the SWA/Namibian independence issue had to be solved at the conference table and not by military force. However, it did not accept Angola's collaboration with SWAPO. "It is believed that the Angola Government realises the seriousness of the situation and that it will stop protecting and actively assisting terrorists to carry out their plans of murder and crime against the local population of South-West Africa," added General Malan. General Malan said the Republic has always been willing to negotiate with Angola with the objective of securing peace in southern Africa.

"On the other hand, I want to make it clear that South Africa will fulfill its responsibilities in South-West Africa and will not allow innocent citizens to be intimidated or terrorised," the minster said.

Pik Botha: Escalation Possible

MB081040 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] South African Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha has warned that South Africa is prepared to escalate the war in Angola into a conventional armored conflict. In an interview with a Durban Sunday newspaper, Botha says that the situation is very serious and that the next few days would determine whether there

will be an escalation of the conflict. South Africa has rejected outright the UN resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of South African forces from Angola. The war, usually described as low-intensity, was stepped up this week when South Africa launched intensive operations in southern Angola, killing 324 SWAPO and Angolan troops. An undisclosed number of soldiers were taken prisoner.

Malan: Situation 'Watched Closely'
MB081220 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] The minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, has said in a statement issued in Pretoria that the South African security force has achieved its objectives with its preemptive strike against SWAPO terrorists in the south of Angola and has started withdrawing. Gen Malan said the command and logistical structures of the terrorists have been disrupted and that more than 1,000 terrorists who had been ready to infiltrate South-West Africa had fled northwards.

In a statement, Gen Malan said that just like the international community, South Africa believed that the solution to the problem lay at the conference table and not in violence. It could only be hoped that the Angolan authorities appreciated the seriousness of the situation and would stop protecting the terrorists and supporting them in their murderous plans and acts against the population of South-West Africa.

Gen Malan said South Africa always had been and still was prepared to negotiate with the Angolan Government toward lasting peace on the subcontinent. He, however, wanted to state clearly that South Africa would not neglect its duty toward South-West Africa and would not allow innocent civilians to be terrorized or intimidated. Gen Malan said the situation in southern Angola was being watched closely and if necessary the appropriate action would be taken regardless of the consequences. He said the terrorists had not nearly felt the full force of the South African military capability.

Earlier, the chief of staff operations of the Defense Force, Lieutenant General Ian Gleeson, announced that more than 400 SWAPO terrorists and FAPLA had been killed in the past month in the operations of the security force in Angola, while 21 members of the security force had died. Twenty Soviet tanks and 20 to 30 anti-aircraft guns, as well as a variety of other weapons, had been either captured or destroyed. Gen Gleeson pointed out that the security force had not employed tanks, which he said was proof that it had never been the intention to clash with Angolan forces.

Gen Viljoen Issues Statement on Battle at Cuvelai
MB071233 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1224 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Pretoria, Jan 7, SAPA — Here is the full text of the statement issued last night by the chief of the S.A. Defence Force, General Constand Viljoen:

"A combined Cuban and Angolan force attacked the security forces on Tuesday while they were conducting operations against elements of SWAPO's seven companies in the area of the hamlet Cuvelai. The attack was sucessfully repulsed and a total of 324 members of SWAPO and the combined force were killed. A total of seven members of the security forces died. The attack was preceded by the addition of at least two battalions of Cuban soldiers as reinforcements for Cuvelai. The attack also proves that SWAPO operates under the direct umbrella protection of the Angolans, Russians, and Cubans. This sort of intervention can result in a serious fight against SWAPO. The attack happened while the security forces were operating against a SWAPO base and tactical headquarters about five kms north-east of Cuvelai. Even Russian T54 tanks were used in the attack. The security forces had to destory 11 of them.

"It has since also become known that the SWAPO leader element had headquarters at Cuvelai and were also housed with the Cuban and Angolan military leader element in Cuvelai. The movement of the seven companies, among others, was also planned and controlled from these headquarters. Cuvelai was also used by SWAPO as an important logistical storage area and the security forces found large quantities of weapons and ammunition there.

"A so-called SWAPO political commissar also showed the security forces seven caches of weapons and ammunition on their infiltration routes. He also confirmed that security force action had been so successful that a large portion of their forces had returned to their deeper-lying bases from fear that they could become involved in clashes with the security forces or that these bases could be attacked by the security forces. He also labelled the Cuvelai area as a keypoint in SWAPO's actions against SWA.

"Although the attack was successfully repulsed, the relatively small security force was surprised by the aggressive way in which this force intervened in its operations against SWAPO. Fighting continued until yesterday under difficult weather and other circumstances against the attacking force. The security forces will leave the area as soon as the mopping-up for mines, weaponry and equipment has finally been completed. A large amount of weaponry and equipment was captured and large amounts which were not recoverable were destroyed.

"The actions of the Cuban and Angolan force in support of SWAPO reinforces intelligence sources that Angolan and Russian advisors are trying to create incidents by this aggressive sort of action. This intervention was apparently aimed at trying to neutralise the security forces' initiative and their effective checking of SWAPO's infiltration attempt and trying to prevent SWAPO from being isolated from the protection of its allies.

"Meanwhile the security forces' actions against SWAPO along the other infiltration routes have been so successful that elements of the security forces have begun scaling down their operations. The scaling down of the current follow-up operation has therefore started."

Angolans Reported Taken Captive

MB080748 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] The chief of staff operations for the SADF, Lieutenant General Ian Gleeson, says a number of prisoners, including Angolans,have been taken captive by South Africa during the combined attack on its forces by Cubans and Angolans near the southern Angolan town of Cuvelai. He said in Pretoria that he could not disclose how many prisoners had been taken.

Gen Gleeson also disclosed that intelligence reports had confirmed that Soviet advisers had given instructions and guidelines for the attack launched while South African forces were busy with a follow-up operation against SWAPO terrorists near Cuvelai, about 200 km north of the South-West African/ Namibian border. An estimated 400 SWAPO and Angolan soldiers have been killed and more than 25 tanks destroyed so far. Twenty-one security force members had been killed.

Gen Gleeson said that South Africa had achieved its military objective in its latest preemptive strike against SWAPO forces in southern Angola, which began on 6 December. The security forces were prepared to begin scaling down the operations. He said the South African soldiers had destroyed a sizeable amount of military hardware, including sophisticated air radar systems, and had captured a large quantity of arms.

Gen Gleeson said that South Africa had succeeded in dispersing the SWAPO buildup, disrupting their preparations for infiltration of South-West Africa/Namibia, and turned back the spearhead of their advance.

Soviet Advisers' Role Depicted

Johannesburg SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 8 Jan 84 pp 1,2

[By Mike Cadman]

[Excerpt] Russian military officers intervened directly in raging battles in Angola this week when tank-supported Cuban and Angolan forces joined SWAPO in fighting the South Africans.

According to South African intelligence, the Russians issued "orders and guidelines" to the Angolan, Cuban and SWAPO forces, and in one case advised them to hold a position "at all costs" and "down to the last man."

The battle near the hamlet of Cuvelai began on Tuesday when South African forces probing towards a SWAPO base 5 km north of the village ran into at least two battalions of Cuban troops.

In the end, according to the SADF, the fighting involved SWAPO, Angolan FAPLA and Cuban forces, and the battle was in part controlled by Russian advisers. The South Africans did not use tanks but engaged the enemy armour with vehicle-mounted cannon and rocket-launchers.

Fresh details of the Russian role were disclosed yesterday by Lieutenant General Ian Gleeson, the SADF's chief of staff operations, when he sketched the battle near Cuvelai where 324 of the enemy were killed in three days of bitter fighting.

Seven South African soldiers died, bringing announced South African deaths during the operation so far to 21.

Eleven Soviet T54 tanks were destroyed by the South Africans, who were using 90mm guns mounted on infantry fighting vehicles and antitank rocket launchers.

A number of prisoners — including Angolans — were taken by South Africa, but Lt Gen Gleeson would not say how many.

Let Gen Gleeson said 20 to 25 tanks, including both T54s and PT76s, had been destroyed and 20 to 30 23mm and 57mm anti-aircraft guns had been captured since the SADF strike began on December 6.

Security forces had at one stage been 300 km inside Angola.

Lt Gen Gleeson estimated that in addition to the 25,000 to 30,000 Cubans there were several thousand — but not more than 5,000 — Russians in Angola.

"The Russians are used mainly in instructional, advisory, and sophisticated maintenance roles.

"With the five FAPLA (Angolan troops) brigades in the area in which the operation was conducted there are probably 20-30 Russian adivsers."

Advanced surface-to-air missile systems had been used against the SA aircraft. One aircraft returned to base with a SAM-9 rocket head lodged in its fuselage.

"It must also be remembered that SWAPO have tanks too.

"We have not used tanks yet but if this sort of pattern continues we may have to consider it."

This week's fighting appears to have escalated into the fiercest battle of the operation, which was aimed at crippling SWAPO's infrastructure and infilitration attempts.

The SWAPO forces were estimated to be between 1,000 and 1,400 strong.

Government Rejects UN Security Council Resolution

MB070717 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says the UN Security Council resolution condemning South African military action in Angola and demanding the immediate unconditional withdrawal of all South African forces virtually condones violence and, he says the government rejects it.

Commenting on the Angolan-sponsored resolution, which was adopted by 13 member countries, with the United States and Britain abstaining, Mr Botha said that the government reaf-

firmed its policy of taking action against any terrorist organization that wanted to determine the political future of South-West Africa by force. Mr Botha said that the South African Government accepted that its viewpoint might lead to confrontation with the whole world, but the Security Council and the world had to take note that the South African Government was prepared to accept the conflict and strife which might result from this. He said the world had to know that South Africa would not allow herself to be intimidated.

Mr Botha said that the government was sick and tired of the hypocrisy of the Security Council and its members, and they could go ahead and do what ever they wanted to and pass whatever resolution they thought fit.

Mr Botha said that the secretary general of the United Nations did not have to wait until the Tuesday deadline set by the Security Council to report on the implementation of the Security Council decision. As a matter of fact, he could do it over the weekend. The minister said that the South African Government had bent over backwards in an attempt to achieve peace in the South-West African-Angolan area.

He said the situations being dealt with were elementary. The Angolan Government, which had not been elected by the people of Angola, was deliberately following a policy of aggression against neighboring states which did not share their Marxist ideology. They allowed SWAPO, which was openly and directly supported by Moscow, to operate from their territory and to launch attacks on South-West Africa.

In its resolution the Security Council decided to meet again if South Africa did not comply with the demand that it stop immediately all so-called acts of aggression against Angola and pull out its troops.

The British representative objected to the extreme language in which the resolution was couched and he said that Britain was abstaining from voting because the resolution failed to mention the latest diplomatic moves. The American representative said that cross-border violence could not be condoned. France, which is one of the five Western Contact Group countries on South-West Africa, and the Netherlands were among the countries voting for the resolution.

Justification for RSA Stance

MB090640 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says South Africa will pay a heavy price in the future if it bows to the demands of the UN Security Council and the West and does not act against SWAPO. In an interview with the South African Broadcasting Corporation, Mr Botha said that South Africa's objective was to try to persuade the world that it would not allow SWAPO or other terrorist groups to determine the country's future. He said that the purpose of South African diplomacy was not to be popular in the short term by appeasing a few states because it happened to be in their global or national intersts; South Africa also had national interests in the region. He said that the Soviet Union was a foreign power, and it was serving its own interests in the region.

Mr Botha said that South Africa would be deceiving itself it it thought that it should not act against SWAPO for the sake of avoiding a conflict with the Security Council or a confrontation with the West. He said that the relative gain of this would be short-lived and South Africa would pay a heavy price at a later stage.

RSA Said 'Not Opposed' to Talks With SWAPO

NC071909 Paris AFP in English 1901 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Pretoria, Jan 7 (AFP) — South African Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha today indicated that his government was not opposed to direct negotiations with the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), after 17 years of guerrilla war waged by the Namibian nationalists.

SWAPO Leader Sam Nujoma had suggested that talks take place earlier this week in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Mr Botha also repeated his government's December 15 offer of a 30-day cease-fire beginning on January 31. SWAPO ought to accept the "plain and clear" South African offer, if it really sought peace, Mr Botha said, adding that "all the interested parties should cease their armed activities and should not exploit the resulting peace."

Until now, the South African Government has refused to negotiate with SWAPO or African National Congress "terrorists", and has criticized the United Nations for treating SWAPO as the only genuine representative of the Namibian people. Pretoria has preferred to call for a dialogue between the internal Namibian political parties.

Johannesburg Reports Bombing at Embassy in Bonn

MB090739 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Police in the West German capital Bonn says a bomb of the type used by West German urban terrorists has exploded in the grounds of the South African Embassy in Bonn. The bomb, made from a 20-centimeter metal tube, caused no causualties or damage at the embassy, which was empty at the time. The West German police said they have no doubt that the bomb, which exploded about 15 meters from the main building of the embassy, had been aimed at the embassy. They said they had no clues on the motive for the attack, and nobody had yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

Labor Party To Ask for Parliament Election Date

MB061704 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The Labor Party is to ask the minister of constitutional development, Mr Chris Heunis, to arrange an election in May

for colored members of the new three-chamber parliament. The leader of the Labor Party, Reverend Alan Hendrickse, told our Port Elizabeth news office that a letter to this effect would be posted to Mr Heunis soon. He said that the party was in the process of establishing a national delimitation committee to recommend to the government how the present 40 constituencies of the old Colored Persons Representative Council should be changed.

Party Resolution Opposes Conscription

MB061700 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1930 GMT 5 Jan 83

[Text] The Labor Party has pledged to work for the repeal of the Group Areas Act and has resolved not to support conscription for Coloreds until they have been granted full citizenship. These were two of nine resolutions adopted by the party's annual congress which ended in Port Elizabeth tonight. Delegates also called for the scrapping of racial legislation and stated that Colored preferential areas were unacceptable.

Meanwhile, Reverend Alan Hendrickse was unanimously reelected leader of the party, while Mr (Mailie Richards) was reelected deputy leader.

AZAPO Denounces UDF Decision on Elections

MB091051 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] AZAPO [Azanian People's Organization] has fiercely denounced participation in government-created structures. At its congress in Lenasia yesterday, AZAPO President Lybon Mabasa also hit out at the United Democratic Front [UDF], accusing it of including organizations which support participation. Mabasa has said the UDF has coerced support from a wide political spectrum, including organizations with what he described as a chameleon attitude to participation.

He has called such participation treasonable and said his office fears that the UDF is a reactive organization that will find itself bogged down by many issues which emerge at the same time. Mabasa says his organization has met twice with UDF leaders, but has rejected affiliation because AZAPO believes in principled unity.

Also at the congress, AZAPO Vice-President (Sath Cooper) said several busloads of delegates on their way to the congress were stopped by police.

Tambo Urges ANC To Take 'Offensive' Posture

MB090456 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] ANC of South Africa President Oliver Tambo has declared that the dream of total liberation in Africa is in sight despite Pretoria's destabilization efforts and naked aggression against the independent Frontline States. The ANC president also pledged to fight side by side with Namibian peoples. He said this in a speech marking the 72d anniversary of the founding of the ANC of South Africa which was released in Lusaka today. Mr Tambo saluted the support from the OAU and the nonaligned countries and called for increased material and moral support to liberation organizations. He urged his organization to shift its posture from the defensive to the offensive, emphasizing that the enemy should not be allowed to take the initiative.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Hails Antiapartheid Fight; ANC Day Marked

MB080926 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, has hailed people of different races who are helping in the fight against apartheid in Pretoria. Dr Kaunda has also called for more sacrifice, but there should be as little blood as possible shed in the fight against apartheid. The president said this at (Mfue), where he is spending a 2-week working holiday, when the visiting president of the Antiapartheid Movement, Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, called on him yesterday. He said without people of different races like Archbishop Huddleston coming in to fight with the struggling indigenous Africans in South Africa, the war going on there would have been a racial one. Dr Kaunda said the war is a (?gesture) of people fighting a common cause of humanity, as evidenced by the support the freedom fighters are now receiving. The president said the result of the war would be triumph for the indigenous people of South Africa, however long the war may take.

Meanwhile, the Central Committee member who is also chairman of the Women's Affairs Committee, Mrs (Chilusaka Kankasa), has said Pretoria's accusations that Frontline States harbor terrorists and criminals will only fuel the desire for increased support and solidarity for SWAPO and the ANC of South Africa. Mrs (Kankasa) said racist South Africa's intimidation will never stop Zambia from giving refuge to the oppres sed people who flee the Boer terror and persecution in South Africa and Namibia.

She said this when she officially launched the year of the Women of South Africa at a rally organized by the ANC of South Africa in Lusaka yesterday. The rally also marked the 72d anniversary of the founding the ANC, which is today.

Envoy Reports 1,500 Angolan Refugees Repatriated

MB061916 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Some 1,500 Angolan refugees out of 2,000 who fled their country due to fighting between government forces and UNITA rebels have been repatriated. Angolan Ambassador to Zambia Andre Miranda announced this in Ndola today when he met Copperbelt member of the Central Committee Alex Shapi at the start of his 3-day visit to the province. The refugees were brought in buses from Northwestern Province refugee camps — in United Bus Company of Zambia buses — to Ndola, where they boarded chartered planes.

ZIMBABWE

Government Protests to RSA Over Assault on Official

MB062018 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1944 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Harare, Jan 6, SAPA — The South African trade mission in Harare was handed a protest note from the Zimbabwe Government today, following the alleged assault of a Zimbabwean official by South African police recently, according to the semi-official news agency ZIANA. Zimbabwe's deputy trade commissioner in South Africa, Mr David Buyanga, was said to have suffered a broken arm during an assault by South African police at a roadblock. Mr Buyanga, who was accompanied by his wife and children, was returning to Johannesburg on December 28 last year after spending a few days in the northern Transvaal when the incident occurred.

The South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, has already admitted that an incident did take place and has apologised.

ZIANA says it is understood that the Zimbabawe Government has demanded a full and thorough investigation and has insisted that those responsible for the alleged assault be brought to justice. The Zimbabwe Government is also believed to be asking for an absolute assurance from South Africa that no such incident will be allowed to occur again. The agency did not name the person at the South African trade mission to whom the protest note is said to have been delivered.

Ian Smith Terms One-Party State 'Dictatorship'

MB052000 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1615 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Interview with Ian Smith on his farm in Zimbabwe by Peter Godwin; date not given]

[Text] In this interview Peter Godwin asked Smith about his relationship with the government and what future he sees for himself and his Republican Front Party in Zimbabwe:

[Begin recording] [Smith] We have either to give in and condone misgovernment and violation of freedom and human rights or stand up and speak our mind. I had a very good liaison with the prime minister. He used to meet me most courteously and even thanked me for giving them the benefit of my experience and my views; but that came to an end on one occasion when I told him that I did not want to mislead him and that so far I had refrained from open public criticism of him and his government, and I had had quite a lot of effect on my party members in restraining them. But I told him that I could not continue to avoid this criticism over the question of a one-party state, which after all is a one-party dictatorship. And I believe if we had such a thing it would deny me and other people freedom. I thought it...[change of thought] I believed, and I am sure I am correct, that it is contrary to our declaration of rights. I told him that it was doing our country a great deal of harm and prejudicing outside investment and confidence in the country, and that I would have to stand up in public and be critical of the (?standpoints). I could see that he was upset — it was the first time that I noticed that he was upset and concerned — and from that moment on he has refused to see me. To reply to your question, that is what I have got to decide. Am I going to condone violation of freedom and human rights in my country? The arrest of innocent people, and there are many of them: for every white man there are about 100 black men — you do not hear so much about them, they have not got the means and the facilities of putting their case over as the white people have — but there are constant daily infringements of human rights and freedoms and if the price of making myself felt and getting on with the government is to condone that, then that is the price which I am not prepared to pay.

[Godwin] Mr Smith, At the present moment the Zimbabwe Government is in effect fighting a guerrilla war in Matabeleland. Do you see any hope for some sort of settlement between the Ndebele people and the Shona, and do you see any hope for peace in Zimbabwe in 1984?

[Smith] I regret to say that with the government's present policy I do not see much hope, and I have told them this on a number of occasions: that their approach to this problem is unintelligent. They are trying to settle a political problem with a military solution and anybody who can think at all should know that that will not work. It has never worked anywhere in this world. They have got to face up to the real worries of the Matabele people, to get down to discussing them with the Matabele people and realize that they will not solve it by incarcerating the leaders of the Matabele people. Communication is so important, and there seems to be no communication at the moment between the government and the Matabele people. So I must in all honesty say to you that I am deeply concerned. I think there are a number of realistic practical things which this government could do to improve the situation and solve it, but they are not doing this. According to my information, the situation there is deteriorating in spite of government claims to the contrary. Their claims do not tie up with the hard facts, which I know are in existence and which anybody can find out if they go to Matabeleland and speak to the people on the ground there. So I think we must all of us use our energies and our best endeavors to try to see if we cannot help to solve this problem; otherwise, the future is bleak. [end recording]